

## BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Bennington Fire Dept Multi-Purpose Rm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 130 River St, Bennington**

**7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

### MINUTES

- Review minutes from June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting- Minutes Passed
- Members Present: William Karis (Chair), Gary Corey (Member), Al Bashevkin (Member), Marsh Hudson-Knapp (Guest) Bill Christian (Member), Madison Kremer (Guest), Chris Bates (Member), Mary Rogers (Member), Nancy Whyte (guest)
  - Vote on Officers for the Energy Committee: All accepted unanimously
  - Chair : Bill Karis,
  - Vice Chair: Bill Christian
  - Recorder : Al Bashevkin
- Develop methodology for establishing Advisory Board. Bill will talk with Jeannie Jenkins about our understanding of this Board that includes membership for individuals associated with industries and organizations that interact with energy related issues. Advisory Board members would attend our Board meetings and five individuals will be asked to join the Advisory Board.
  - Nancy Whyte questioned whether an advisory board is necessary.
- Bike Hub Update..
  - All were updated about recent Bike Hub Advances. These include recognition by the IRS as a tax exempt organization, movement to purchase the assets of Highlander Bicycle and to move into their rented space, creation of ourbikehub.com as the website for the Bike Hub. Recruitment of volunteers known to the Bike Hub as Bike Angels and creating a process to engage volunteers, building and maintaining an active Board of Directors, advertising for a paid position, and fundraising for start-up capital.
  - Bill is encouraged to see the Bike Hub working with the Energy Committee to reduce vehicular traffic. Could the energy committee support bike racks around town. Could there be safer streets and routes. Could there be conversation about amounts of bike parking around Bennington.
  - Madison is wondering how the Energy committee could create a bike friendly energy subcommittee and this should be added to the August Agenda.
  - How could bike parking intersect with the initiation of the Skate Park?
  - Is there adequate Bike storage in Bennington for people who want to own bicycles but have no place to put them in foul weather?
  - Are there ordinances that affect and impact cycling in Bennington? Bruce Lierman is equipped to answer that question.
- Data Subcommittee Update
  - Looking to establish a greenhouse gas consumption baseline to understand our progress towards state goals. Bill is working on this, and the data has proved quite difficult to work with. We are starting with 1995, and will compare our most recent usage to understand the progress we have made towards our goals. Have efficiency improvements made a difference for us or is there more that we need to do? We need to reduce our emissions by 2025 to show 26% green energy.

- Bill K. Municipality is doing a pretty good job at replacing with energy efficient and has plans that will assist with becoming more energy efficient. Bennington ought to pursue state monies (H 518) to help with municipal buildings. It's a stretch to think that the greater Bennington community can do this...but it's what we are working on. Can we connect with Federal monies that are available to help residents become more energy efficient?
- Chris will read the bill (H518) and report to us at the next meeting about what Bennington might be eligible for .
- Discussion about how we can focus on the Town (outside of the municipality) to reduce our energy use. Bill Christian has done a lot of work in understanding our use as a region, and it might be good to focus on some of the larger institutions in Bennington.
- Bill K will reach out to Callie to find out about BCRC's role in helping to reduce our greenhouse gasses.
- It was noted that our larger institutions have made investments in larger energy saving.
- Madison Kremer to invite BROCC contact to Aug meeting to discuss new low-to-moderate income opportunities.
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- PR Subcommittee Update
  - Following up with BROCC to ensure that those who team up with Window Dressers will then be referred to BROCC
  - Motion approving that the PR subcommittee can put together information to share with the larger community either through public sources or through CAT TV. Chris Bates can assist with this and will work with Bill Christian and Al Bashevkin about this.
- Distribution of Energy Efficiency Materials Update: No report
- Action Items Matrix: Tabled
- Public comment : None
- Confirm agenda for first Wednesday of month, August 3, 2022 meeting