

MEETING NOTICE

BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 7th, 2022

Bennington Fire Dept Multi-Purpose Rm, 3rd Floor, 130 River St, Bennington

Zoom Link:

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

A G E N D A

In attendance: William Karis (Chair), Gary Corey (Member), Al Bashevkin (Member), Chris Bates (Member), Mary Rogers (Member), Bruce Lierman (member), Bill Christian (member), Marshall Hudson Knapp (guest), Dick Dundas (guest)

- Review minutes from Aug 3rd
 - Motion Passed
- Revisit methodology for selection process Advisory Board
 - The Advisory Board will have five members
 - New Advisory Board members will be nominated by members of the Energy Committee
 - Discussion about whether advisory board should consist of residents; or perhaps folks who have specific knowledge
 - Current members of the Advisory Board include Dick Dundas, Marshall Hudson-Knapp, Madison Kremer, and Mike True-Webber,
 - Motion for Energy Committee to nominate others for the Advisory Board at the next meeting...Bruce moved towards a vote during the October meeting and existing members will be contacted to see if they are in fact able to be part of the group. We will vote during that meeting to create the Advisory Board.
- BROC guest – TBD- No BROC guest coming to meeting tonight.
- Bike Hub Update –
 - Bike Hub is going well. Open hours are Thurs – Saturday from 10 – 5 PM. Two Mechanics have been hired to assist volunteers in running the store.
 - Subcommittee priorities
 - Bruce talked about some of the ordinances that are on the books for Bennington. If those ordinances are not being enforced, then perhaps no need to change the ordinances right now.
 - Other areas of legislation are the far to right laws (bicycles should ride as close to the right as possible.) Perhaps the legislation should consider a slow moving lane law that says slow traffic should stay at the right; not only cyclists, but also cars
 - The Idaho Stop Law is worth considering as well. This law says all cyclists don't necessarily have to stop at all stop signs, but rather can roll through these areas when deemed safe.
 - Locally, we are in need of more bicycle parking. There is a lack of convenient parking facilities for bikes. Increasing public knowledge for the need for bike parking and funding to make that happen would be good. A suggestion is that

we approach the Select Board with this idea. Can Business leaders and the BBC BCRC be all engaged in this process? The Biking Bennington Subcommittee will convene these leaders. Bike storage is also important and this will also be part of the conversation.

- Data Subcommittee Update –
 - Jeannie Jenkins put Bill in touch with Dan Monks to review the data that Bill has and that Dan may also have. That meeting has not happened yet.
- PR Subcommittee –
 - Bill talked about the solar farm that is proposed for our landfill. It may be a good use of that land and it's suggested that the Energy Committee be engaged in this issue. Discussion about how this project is proceeding and it seems that there is a study of how it will impact the landfill.
 - Identify/outline CAT TV opportunity
 - Chris is setting his schedule for the next 13 weeks for his show on CAT TV. And Chris is hoping to focus on energy issues if there are folks who want to go on the show. Two ideas came up, one is with Bill Christian and Bill Karis about data analysis and another TV show idea is on the happenings at the Bike Hub.
- EV Events – 2 events planned. One in Manchester (September 24), and one in Bennington (October 1). The event will feature yard equipment, electronic vehicles, and E-Bikes as well. The Bennington event will be at the Farmer's Market.
- Action Items Matrix
 - Ideas: supporting the Bennington infrastructure that supports reduced energy usage (like bike racks)
 - Bruce's research into the use of our charging stations and he said that building grounds has that data. He will look at updating that data.
- Public comment
 - EV Charging stations are coming to Bennington. BCRC is working on this issue and are there ways that the Energy Committee can assist with that process. Madison wrote a grant for installing charging stations at affordable housing sites and the consensus is that she was successful at that grant.
 - Bill Karis reported about a new program for GMP will offer flexible scheduling for peak usage of energy. They are trying to flex out how energy is being used. The home vehicle chargers that GMP offers is a way that GMP is reducing usage during peak times. GMP has the capacity to shut the chargers off during peak usage times and notifies the user that is happening. If a shut off is inconvenient, users can opt out of individual shut offs by GMP.
 - Installing solar on Town Buildings? Does this make sense. The rebates for renewable generation are not available to municipalities or for non-profits. Chasing tax credits is a challenging issue for those organizations that are not for profit or don't pay taxes.
 - Bruce discussed the entry level e-vehicles as many are the high end vehicles. We need to understand the scale of transportation that we can offer with EV's. If we are thinking that bigger is better, we may be off in the wrong direction. Some trucks are carrying 1800 pounds of batteries.
- Confirm agenda for first Wednesday of month, October 5, 2022 meeting. Bill Karis is looking for Committee members to assist in building the agenda.