

Brandon Energy Committee (BEC) Meeting
August 1, 2022

Committee Members Present: Jim Emerson, Jack Schneider, Jeff Haylon, Robert Black, Erin Ballantine, Lollie Hoxie, Jeff Cohen

Others Present: Wade Davis, Eve Beglarian, Clare Schick, Mike Schick, Wyatt Waterman

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Jim Emerson – Chair.

2. Inspirational Thoughts

Inspiration Moment – “The gardener comes to the realization that what she had thought of as ‘working in the garden’ was actually, the garden ‘working on her’.”

Jim: Expanding our thrust – inviting others in. Something to learn here. Learn how we can work together more fully and effectively....common concerns: global warming, etc. Confident that we can grow together and develop the capacity for resilience...work outwardly and inwardly.

Jeff C:

Jeff H: Climate heavy focus in Church growing up...the Earth is our Garden...the earth is screaming at us to do something. We can do something here on the “micro-scale”.

Jack: The coal miner comes to the realization that the mine is actually working on.

Erin:

Lollie: New to Brandon...meeting new people. The BEC is “working on me”...think about things I’ve not thought about.

Robert: Think globally, act locally! See the greater, common good.

Eve Beglarian: The BEC has given me hope to act.

3. Agenda Adoption

A motion was made by Jack and seconded by Jeff H to approve the agenda as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Remove; Darrrell Greene (to be rescheduled to the next meeting).

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jeff Haylon and seconded by Kelly to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2022, BEC meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Question: Where do I find the BEC minutes...on the Town Website...<townofbrandon.com>

5. Welcome Guest Volunteers

Jim addressed the audience about why they are here. The BEC adopted goals and then turned to set up Working Groups. The BEC wants to engage a broader community beyond the BEC members to help achieve overall Energy Goals. We need to operate on NPR Marketplace principal: “We are smarter than me”...

Introductions

Claire Shick – interest in Conservation...learn more

Mike Shick – Homeowner...added solar, etc....make our home more efficient...interested in doing this on a larger scale. Reconnect with the Community.

Brandon BEC Meeting

August 1, 2022

Wyatt Waterman – echo Global thought local action. Work at the grass roots level to make a difference. In the Conservation group with Joanne Coons.

Wade Davis – Interested in Environment issues...how to figure out what to do on a real scale. Real things I can do now with the resources I have now. Personal commitments not allow to be a BEC member, but need to find some way to participate. Why not solar panels on every building as part of Building Codes.

Eve...Transportation Committee member...E-Biker, channeling her inner “10 yr. old”. Reasonable commute with E-Bike. Went “solar” last year...wish to make possible for more people. Also, Bristol example of Community Solar.

BEC Members then introduced themselves and their areas of interest to the audience members present.

6. BROCC Program Introduction with Darrell Green

Jim Emerson will contact Darrell

7. BEC Survey Implementation

Erin and Robert have updated the Residential Survey. Jack is coordinating the Businesses Survey with the categories in the Residential Survey. The intention is to roll out both single-page hard copies and an electronic Google Docs survey. Jeff H., Jeff C. and Tim met to discuss outreach and door-to-door canvassing. Best to defer to Spring 2023, given the timing of political election this year. The Spring roll out of canvassing presents a good educational opportunity to reach out to the 1500 +/- Brandon households.

Jeff H. suggested we build more contacts with State of Vermont. Also, we need to start a communal database of links and contacts.

Jim distributed a 2020 summary of “Community Energy Dashboard” of Brandon Solar, Heat Pumps, EV’s etc.

Robert moved, Jeff H. second, to approve the final draft of the Residential Survey as written. **Unanimous Pass.**

8. Recap of Davenport Festival

Jack reported on the success of the first annual Davenport Festival. Good results, attendance and much public learning. The “science” aspects of the Festival were very important (Davenport model, science presentations, etc) Looking for more sponsors for next year. Who to contact earlier to support next year’s event. Engage State legislators next year. Governor signed a proclamation about Thomas Davenport. The Festival is a Town Event, with support from the BEC. Claire Shick offered to help with next year’s Festival planning.

9. Approval of Working Groups and Goals for the coming year.

Jim Emerson spoke about setting a template for a new working process. He distributed a “Smart (Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Realistic, Time specific) Goal Worksheet for 2022/2023.” We discussed setting timeframes for each goal. Jim asked about Educational Goal #14: doing interviews with Brandon residents in their personal stories about saving energy.

Generation Goals: Jack and Robert will explore solar canopy for Police vehicles (4 for outside canopy, 2 inside the building).

Goals Not Taken Up (from Goal Worksheet, p.2).

#5. Approach Hannaford to work on this.

#6. Jim suggested we work on ways to find funding for these incentive programs (Efficiency VT, etc.)

#7. “Food waste” is not necessarily a core issue for the BEC to tackle at this time.

#8. Town net-zero garage...keep working to move this up in priority.

#9. Develop a data roadmap to 90% renewables for commercial and residential sectors.

Brandon BEC Meeting

August 1, 2022

#10. Jeff H to work with OVUHS to create a volunteer working group for residential conservation efforts.

Transportation Goals.

Jeff H to have the working group suggest goals on this.

Jeff H moved, Lollie second that we adopt this list of Goals for this year. **Unanimous Pass.**

WORKING GROUPS

Coordinators:

Transportation – Jeff H (Jack Schneider, Eve Beglarian)

Conservation – Jim Emerson (Jeff Cohen, Lollie Hoxley, Joanne Coons, Wyatt

Generation – Erin (Tim Guiles, Wade Davis, Nate Doty, Robert Black, Jeff Cohen)

Education – All BEC members (Nate Doty)

Jim suggested we use the current Working Groups Template for now. Jeff moved, Lollie second to approve the current interim template as a guide for now for the groups. **Unanimous Pass.**

Each Working Group to decide specific goals and strategies.

10. Other business

Eve Baglarian from the audience suggested we explore more discussion and coordination with the Town and other groups (i.e., Credit Union, etc.) to work on Funding Resources. Working Groups to add this topic into their goals discussion.

Suggestion for a Social “Pot Luck” Gathering as a get-to-know event for BEC members and for the community. Possible location at Jeff Haylon’s house, Briggs Lane, Monday Sept 12, 5:30-8:00 PM.

11. Review of Committee Members Agreements for Follow-up Actions

Erin Ballantine/Robert Black to complete electronic version of the survey and finalize the 1-page hard copy.

Jeff Haylon to talk with OVUHS and with Joanne Coons

All – send suggestions to Jim for people to interview.

Jim Emerson to create a draft annual report for the Select Board

Erin Ballentine will talk with Bill Moore about the website

12. Next Meeting

September 6, 2022 @ 4:30PM at the Brandon Town Hall (Labor Day Holiday, Sept 5)

Jim Emerson suggested reflection for next meeting: *What can we commit to doing in our personal lives to further our ‘walking the talk’ as energy committee proponents?*

13. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned by consensus at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Black/BEC Secretary
In absence of Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary