

Brandon Energy Committee
4:30 PM Monday, August 7, 2023 Meeting
Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

Agendas are posted on the community bulletin boards located at the Town Office at 49 Center Street and the Junction Store & Deli at 2265 Forest Dale Road. The Energy Committee reserves the right to add additional items, if necessary, at the beginning of the meeting.

Members Present: Jim Emerson, Jack Schneider, Robert Black, Clare Babya-Sheck, Eve Baglarian, Jeff Haylon

EDUCATION WORKING GROUP ITEMS

4:30 PM JE called the meeting to order.

Discussion of budget monies available:

\$2000 (Regular + \$2800 = \$4800 for promotional items.

CK set budget for books at \$900.

General group discussion about ideas to action projects related to Education: (Bike Racks; Energy Library; PV array power for events-ala Davenport Fest; EV golf carts with PV roof; Tree planting w/Tree Committee to invite public participation for watering, etc)

Discussion of how to measure progress on specific programs for each Town. RRPC has county-wide data, but prorated to individual towns based on population. Need better data to be able to measure progress for each Town.

Action: Hire RRPC as consultant to help acquire data. JE and JS to explore cost w/RRPC

Also, JE check out possible connection to Addison County PC after getting info from RRPC. Prepare a "Score Card" w/RRPC to evaluate progress on each of the 26 Towns in Rutland Cty.

Consider tracking data on some Energy categories within Brandon town limits. (Solar PV installations, heat pump installations, EV's.)

Action: Promotion budget covers painting Brandon Bikes (Cost TBD).

REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA

5:00 PM JE called Regular Meeting to order. Agenda adopted with addition of Energy Library. No public comment.

5:02 Reflection: What do we do to survive climate change in Brandon, VT?

5:15 ***Jeff Haylon nominated and approved to continue as BEC Vice-Chair.***

5:20 Ongoing Project Reports

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BECCommunity Picnic defer to later in the Fall. Summer too busy.

Brandon Bikes Racks. EB to work with David Martin to mark locations for racks and auger placement this coming Saturday. 15 Bike racks, including behind Dunkin Donuts building.

Fall Button Up Brandon

October 11 event with Businesses and Solarfest to focus on Heat Pumps and Tax Law

November 8 event for Homeowners

Subcommittee to meet Wednesday, 8/9.

Energy Book Rack Budget at \$1200-MERP fund. Need to make an Energy label for books. Install bookshelf and Brandon Energy Community sign.

Action: RB and KC to coordinate.

5:35 Review agreements made last month and new ones this month:

E-Library link follow up with EB. Bill Moore set up Town webpage to support this. **EB follow up.**

Brandon Bikes article for The Reporter underway.

Brandon Fall Picnic event TBD – if coordinator steps up.

Recommend to Select Board to use ARPA funds for Town solar PV project (\$60K ARPA money for permits, land lease agreement, upfront costs for Engr'g/Design) Examples of 18 other VT Towns who are already doing this. **JE to follow up with Seth Hopkins.**

EB follow up to post her Brandon Bikes article (Nancy Leary/Brandon Buzz page, Sue Gage / Facebook page, Front Porch Forum).

Other possible outreach articles – Bus to Rutland and Middlebury to coordinate with Amtrak Train Schedule. JH consider writing article on history of multiple train destinations in the area.

Davenport Fest. **JS to work on planning for 1st Quarter – 2024**

High School Projects – EB and Marielle Blaise work on connection to OVUHS students/teacher.

Update Town Plan new data for previous Energy section. Need Select Board to review and approve recommendations for Energy Goals from Brandon Planning Commission. BEC to work on provide additional goals and metrics to the BPC for Town Plan recommendations.

JS to coordinate with Cecil/Planning Commission.

Develop E-lawn mower program (“No-mow May”). Interest from Ace Hardware to participate.

Action: Clare to work on this.

Lending Library of E-equipment. Work with Ace Hardware? Needs further study, possible (“Me and My Neighbor”) example article to stimulate interest.

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Grant Budget Commitments. Mailing of color flyer and Energy Library. Also acquire Energy data updates. **Action: JE and JS to coordinate.**

2024 Parade Planning – Budget: \$300

Bike Rejuvenation Project. Integrate with Brandon Bikes. Ethan Nelson idea to gather and fix-up old bikes and make available to users around Brandon. Paint bikes Green to match new bike racks. Bill Moore has bike helmets purchased for Brandon Rec program. Consider a Bike Repairing workshop as part of this project.

Action: JE contact “Little City Bikes”-Vergennes as possible teacher.

Action: EV, JH, Erin to coordinate.

5:55 Next meeting Sept 11 (9/4 is a Holiday).

6:00 PM Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting we will open with the reflection:

How harshly will Climate Change affect Brandon in the next 20-25 years?

***Interested parties may also attend this meeting electronically:
Video Conference via ZOOM: Meeting ID (870 4222 0099)***

Submitted:

Robert Black/BEC Secretary