

Brandon Energy Committee
4:30 PM Monday, September 11, 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, Erin Ballantine, Jeff Haylon

EDUCATION ITEMS

4:30 PM JE called the meeting to order.

Report from Tim Guiles on Town GHG emissions...Work toward 2025 GHG goals (1990 baseline)
Need for more advocacy from BEC to Town facilities management/operations.
Opportunities for propane usage conservation, cost savings, etc.
Major energy user – Wastewater treatment plant (more conservation, single pane windows!)
Need for new Highway Garage – opportunities to study best approach to a new facility.
Variety of energy conservation and electric powered equipment conversions.

6 years of historical data showing flat graph of Town's carbon footprint (1/2 of this is diesel – heavy equipment). Tim suggestion: Explore other communities (U.S., global) of high efficiency heavy snow plow, etc. equipment.

329 Tons/Yr Carbon. By 2025 Goal of 244 to meet a 26% reduction. Propane (20% reduction, focus on HP)...#2 Fuel oil reduce 20%...save 26 metric Tons gasoline shifting gasoline fleet to all-electric.

Tim's conclusion: "We can reach our Energy Goal".

Energy Library

Kathy Clark presentation of how to manage book sign-out/return. RB set up an interim location for the Energy bookshelf. Will be moved to near the drinking fountain after the bike raffle.
Rework KC's proposal for Energy Library Instructions to simplify and make a poster.
Add Energy bookplates to keep track of Energy books separate from BFPL books.

REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA

5:00 PM JE called Regular Meeting to order.

5:00 Adopt agenda and minutes

5:02 Invitation for public comments. No public comment.

5:05 Reflection: How harshly will climate change affect Brandon in the next 20 to 30 years and what we can do to prepare?

Discussion notes: BEC to lobby for forward-thinking climate change issues...use Overflow Culvert as example. Use also personal experience...SergeC....Mickey and Lisa Poluso on Prospect St. See Town Hazard Mitigation Plan (Brandon website). Consider Educational Articles to inform general public about why energy investments are worthwhile.

JE: working on article re: "emotional" impacts from climate change

5:15: Discussion of Brandon Energy Plan

- Updates every 8 years; helps prospective newcomers to town understand goals
- Lack of current and historical data makes updates tricky
- Currently 39 registered EVs in town
- Items to include in plan: new municipal garage, allowance for agri-solar over livestock, orchards, bees, other non-crop agro, weatherization of municipal buildings

Discussion on upcoming events:

- Button Up Business: Oct 11
- Button Up Homeowners: Nov 8
- SolarFest Concert (Dar Williams) Oct 26 in Rutland (Grace Episcopal Church)
- ARPA/MERP deadline incoming--momentum for ARPA funds seem to be going for Town Hall roof
- VCC grant deadline--bike rejuvenation project, perhaps a bike repair tool post to accompany one of the bike racks

- Town Energy Report Card--data still being collected, could go into annual town report booklet to save us the mailing cost

5:53 Motion to adjourn by Jeff Haylon, seconded Erin Ballantine.

Next meeting 10/2/2023

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

Submitted:

Robert Black/BEC Secretary (w/addnl. notes by Jeff Haylon)