

**Brandon Energy Committee**  
**4:30 PM Monday, October 02, 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, Serge Cotnoir.

**EDUCATION ITEMS**

4:30 PM JE called the meeting to order.

Discussion of Town Energy Plan update, and how it indexes into the new Town Plan. Complete draft of Energy Plan by November 6, 2023. Then Review Period by Town citizens for two months, to send for final approval with Town Plan by January, 2024.

JS to meet with Cecil Reniche-Smith/Brandon PC and Jeremy Gildrean/RRPC to get data and draft of plan to send out for BEC review.

CB-S and RB: work on promotional displays to show current status of solar installations in Brandon.

**REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA**

5:00 PM JE called Regular Meeting to order.

5:00 Adopt agenda and minutes. Both approved unanimously.

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

5:05 Reflection: What does it mean to be an energy and climate resilient community?

Discussion notes: Concern for lagging progress in Vermont generally for Energy Goals.

Price of solar dropped 80% in past 10 years.

5:15: Upcoming Events and Ongoing Project Reports:

> Fall Button Up Brandon events. Limited enrollment for Oct 11. Need to promote for more attendance. Consider coordinating with regular Button Up events.

>Brandon Energy Plan update (discussed in Education section above).

>BEC Energy Lending Library (KC and RB completed the installation...ready for lending now.

>ARPA funds for solar. Potential \$260K bond for Town solar installation for Town facilities. Need to prepare proposal to Select Board to put this question on a Town wide ballot. Concern for Select Board support due to potential Town liabilities, also decommissioning and disposal costs. Action: Ben Marks, JE to prepare possible lease option for "Missing Middle" solar project (1 acre) and larger Town wide 150 KW solar project to present at Select Board meeting in three weeks. Incentives: project pays for itself and other TBD.. Suggestion to talk with SB members to give them more details and information prior to the 10/23 SB meeting. JE will gather financial information to distribute to BEC members week of 10/09. BEC members to meet with the Fire District and Neshobe School to discuss potential solar project. JE to explore "Green Lantern" project idea to assign direct to Fire/Water District. Do larger project for Town only use, to save Town costs.

Bike rejuvenation project for next spring. Dave Martin request help to paint last existing bike racks. Bill Moore, Ethan Nelson and others to work on this over the winter for next Spring start up. JE to work with Seth Hopkins to explore liability issues. C B-S described concern for bikers' helmets. JE work on plan for conversion of std. bike to E-bike workshop

Electric yards and lawns event next Spring. C B-S working with Bill Moore on May 21, 2024 workshop at Estabrook Park. JS suggest to contact Bill Moore to arrange youth volunteers to participate and offer yard/lawn work for Seniors, etc.

Climate Catalyst grant applications this fall. JE waiting for grant (up to \$4.5K) sign up process. JH suggested proposing possible projects from BEC tour (with Seth H.) of Wastewater Treatment facility on Tuesday, 10/17, 4:00 pm. EB to study "SHARK" system possibility.

Reporter articles. KC working on topic for Energy Lending Library.

SolarFest revised program with Gar Williams, other bands on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am – 10 pm at Congregational Church in Rutland including workshops for 1-day event. Available capacity: 200 people in workshops and 500 people in performances.

Discussion on upcoming events:

5:55 review agreements made.

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

Next meeting 11/6/2023. We will open with the reflection: Please survey what other Town Energy Committees are doing effectively and be prepared to share what you find.

***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)