

Brandon Energy Committee Meet Minutes
4:30 PM Monday, December 4th, 2023
Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

Attendees: Jim Emerson, Jack Schneider, Jeff Haylon, Erin Ballantine, Clare Babyak-Schick

Guests: Bob West/Goshen Energy Committee, Tim Guiles

EDUCATION ITEMS

4:30: Discussed plans for town approval of 150 kW solar array via a bond issue the Select Board approves

- Town Manager Mr. Hopkins to follow up about sealed bids from solar companies
- EC's role will be helping get out the bond vote and helping educate concerned parties about the solar project

4:40: JE: continue working towards "Missing Middle" project for median-income households(along with ACORN)

4:45:Continue working on Town Energy Report Card based on available data, continue hunting new data as it becomes available

REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA

4:55 JE called meeting to order

4:56 Jack moves to adopt previous minutes and agenda - unanimous approval

4:58 Invitation for public comment

5:05: Upcoming Events and Project Reports

- Button-Up Event well-received for both business and homeowners
 - 16 business attendees, ~24 for homeowners (several from Goshen)
- 5:10 Town Facilities
 - Jeff: easiest "low-hanging-fruit" to accomplish are storage reorganization and window ("indow") insulation
 - Storage reorg/optimization can be done for essentially no cost with BEC volunteer labor
 - Continue to seek cultural change for buildings/rooms where thermostat temps can be reduced/put on timers
 - Roof repair/replacement does include R-13 insulation for new roof
 - Plan to make report to Select Board on WW energy optimization before Town Meeting in March
 - Potential grant for municipal energy improvements
- 5:20 Grantwatch subscription
 - \$200/year for grant "newsfeed" so we can track potentially helpful grants
- Temporary library thermostat issues--finding ways to reduce temperatures
- Energy Lending Library project--finding solution for maintenance, storage

5:35: Brandon Energy Plan: Jack: Enhanced Energy Plan has become its own document, relatively untethered to the Town Plan so it can be updated more frequently as needed. Town Plan portion is 3 pages, Enhanced Plan is 27. All available online via the town website.

5:40: Town Solar Project: Select Board approved bond vote for solar array, using ARPA funds

5:42: Clare: May 21, 2024 Lunch and Learn at Estabrook for electric appliances for lawn/garden care. Potential to integrate future lending library equipment

5:45: Collaboration with OVUHS/getting a student member

- potential quorum issues with student as full member, but having a student as an ambassador/community member potentially excellent. Potentially as a liaison with environmental club at OV
- Tim, Clare, Erin to follow up with making contact with relevant faculty at OV

5:50: David and Eve to spearhead bike rejuvenation project spring 2024

5:52: Future *Reporter* articles; compile list of topics to write; updating town website with relevant energy topics

5:54: Rotating meeting chair protocol: Jeff Haylon to chair January meeting (Next meeting: Jan 8)

5:55 Review prior commitments

6:00 Motion to adjourn by Jeff, unanimously approved. Next meeting January 8 (due to the 1st Monday being New Year's)