

Brandon Energy Committee Meeting
4:30 PM Monday, January 8, 2024
At Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

Attendees: Jim Emerson, Clare Babyak-Schick, Erin Ballentine, Jack Schneider, Jeff Haylon, Kathy Clark, David Martin, Robert Black
Guests: Tim Guiles, Nate Doty

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.

EDUCATION ITEMS

4:30 Discussion begun by Jeff Haylon

Compile Questions for Select Board Candidates (Doug Bailey-3-yr. seat, Heather Nelson, Ralph..., others TBD) General discussion ideas: Ask about State Energy Goals? Have you read Brandon's Energy Plan – only 25 pages w/pictures? Are you aware of the Town Garage Project?, How will you as a candidate help to integrate the Energy Plan into the Town Plan?, etc. BEC set up a form with questions to distribute to potential candidates and ask for response prior to elections. Publish candidate answers in The Reporter. ACTION: JE to organize questions and distribute to BEC for comments.

Develop plan for promoting the Town solar system bond vote. Rename as “self-funding solar project” to emphasize that project revenue from solar will pay for the bond. Even moreso, call it “revenue generating”. Consider setting up a subgroup to implement the plan. Study to emphasize the three main criteria to support this vote. ACTION: JE draft 2 position papers 1) Comprehensive; 2) Reporter version. Others TBD will help organize the outreach/house meetings, etc.

REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA

5:05 PM Meeting called to order by Jeff Haylon – as rotating chair

5:00 Adopt agenda and minutes (Amended for Grants, Missing Middle Project, Bond Vote Subgroup). Revised agenda and minutes approved unanimously.

5:09 Invitation for public comments (None)

5:10 Reflection: An open conversation about other projects individuals on the committee might be willing to champion, including collaborations with other groups in town or nearby towns. CB-S work on Electric Lawn mowing event. JE purchase electric yard equipment loan program. TG is doing solar car-charger projects (<\$200 ea.). EB working on contacts with OVUHS...also add possible BEC student repr.; Other Town Connections...(Rutland-Brandon-Middlebury “corridor”)...interact with Farmers, etc.; Rutland County Planning Commission sustainable transportation alternatives (Statewide Coalition)

5:20 Upcoming Events and Ongoing Project Reports:

-Review of annual budget (\$1400 Balance FY 2023/2024, MERP grant (\$2800) commitments (Library, promotional), 2024/2025 proposed budget (\$1500

The Brandon Town Energy Report Card Project ...update pending for next meeting

Electric yards and lawns event next spring ... CB-S to update at next meeting re: EGO equipment and Brandon Lumber partner

Purchase of electric yard equipment for lending Library ...JE in progress

Collaboration with OVUS...still working on new connections

Bike rejuvenation project for next spring...DM working on progress for Spring '24.

Reporter articles...Focus on Solar Bond this season...

Town Energy Webpage EB will work on this

Added Agenda Items:

Grants JE asking for suggestions for grants...need to decide focus "filters" to narrow grant possibilities. JE and JS will work on this.

Missing Middle* project...TG + JE + Ben Marx work to seek grant to spearhead this project and establish a non-Town entity to manage. **Community members who don't qualify for BROOC, other sim. Programs.*

Bond support Subgroup Chair: EB Group: KC, JH ...start with high-level plans after Bond announcement in the next 2+ weeks.

CB-S...work on replacement windows for Library spaces in Town Hall... RB and EB to assist...

5:50 Meeting leadership for February to June and beyond

5:54 Review agreements made. Next meeting February 5th and good byes!

Next meeting we will open with the research/reflection: To be announced by JS.

March meeting: EB (Town Meeting Day Tuesday March 5)

5:57 PM Adjourn