

Brandon Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
4:30 PM Monday, February 5, 2024
Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

Attendees: Jim Emerson, Jack Schneider, Jeff Haylon, Eve Baglarian, Clare Babyak-Schick, Erin Ballentine, David Martin, Bob ____, Karen Farwell, Robert Black
Guest: Sandy Mayo

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 Jack Schneider called to order

- Virtual presentation by Izaak Onos, **Go! Vermont** Outreach Coordinator
Strategic Plan – 3 Goals 1.Statewide Transportation Resource (Call Center); Go! Vermont Email, Bus/Van Pool; 2.) Support a Greener Vermont and a healthier planet; 3.)Educate about travel options for all (i.e., Medical transport, etc.). Program Options: Trip Planning Software; Commuter Co-Op/Van Pool (Subsidized/Cost-effective); Transit App -realtime Public Trans Resource/Advanced Wayfinding; GRH/Guaranteed Ride Home. See govermont@vermont.gov
- How to promote solar bond so it's approved even if town budget is rejected. Town concern that a standing committee not use public resources to promote...better to promote individually. Consider use of "Next Door" (sim. To Front Porch Forum) to promote to voters. Erin working on a flyer and a newspaper article to promote the solar bond (incl. experiences of other towns). RB talk with JE re: Tanner Romano endorsement. JH talk with Courtney Satz, Charlie Thurston. EB talk with Pat Wood.
- Review Select Board candidate questions. Decided on four questions....possible Candidate's Forum...2/15 or 2/22 to be set up by Bernie Carr/Chamber...JS to coordinate w/Bernie.
- Recap Steven Jupiter group interview about the Brandon Energy Committee. Not published yet.
- Bike project support request - David Martin...working on Old High School rehab project, incl. bike recycling/share bikes...Vermont Arts Council \$15K grant for infrastructure and art to support purchase of new bikes and have artists add art on them. Reference "Art Bike" projects in other U.S. communities. Seeking a letter of recommendation from BEC...David to draft this for review.
- Green Energy Times distribution...David Martin volunteered to do this.

[Go! Vermont - Vermont's best resource to find all the ways to go. \(connectingcommuters.org\)](http://connectingcommuters.org)

REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA

5:20 JS called to order.

5:22 Adopt agenda and minutes. Add agenda item for Letter of Support for Bike Art grant.

5:23 Invitation for public comments Sandy Mayo comment on finances and the human connection.

5:25 Reflection: Did you make any energy-related New Year's Resolutions and, if so, how are they coming? JE will work with Tom Perry/special Energy Audit. JS rework Yoga Studio garage for new roof with solar. MS bought a new plug in hybrid vehicle. EB, JH will insulate house basement this year.

5:30 Upcoming Events and Ongoing Project Reports:

- Town Meeting Day is March 5th (Tues)
 - Select Board budget & appropriations presentation at 7PM March 4th (Mon)
 - BEC may need to be available to answer solar array questions JE to attend.
- Solar array bond and Industrial Park lease update by JE. (Cost: \$100/Yr + COLA over 40 yrs.) Plan for array layout by Landmark Engrg/Middlebury.
- Spring electric yard and lawncare equipment event (Megan/Ace Hardware-Brandon Lumber to assist CB-S.to reach out to local lawn/yard businesses). Event to be held at Estabrook Park.
- Spring bike rejuvenation project. DM to talk with Bill Moore about bike repair event in conjunction with Spring Safety event. Initial design concept for bike repair stations (“artistic”).
- MERP audits/town building projects status. Four town buildings’ audits approved to proceed.
- Energy Report Card update....support from Middlebury to improve Brandon’s work.
- Reporter articles (feedback on 1/30 police EV article). Other: lithium mining compare with mining oil;
- Town Energy Webpage update...in process...EB to work on this...
- Budget review and identified expenses..has been reduced to \$1500. \$2800 + \$600 balance on current budget for promotion/education this FY.
- Purchase of electric yard equipment for lending library & grant for same
- Discussion on whether OVUHS representative should fill committee vacancy

Motion by EB to be authorizing agent for the LOS written by DM. Second by EB. Approved.

5:55 Meeting leadership for March meeting – Chair: EB

5:56 Review agreements made. Next meeting **March 4th** and good byes!

Next meeting we will open with the research/reflection: TBD by March Chair Pro Tempore

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

5:58 PM JS adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Black/BEC Secretary