

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

Attendees: Jim Emerson, Jack Schneider, Jeff Haylon, Clare Babyak-Schick, Mariel Blaise, Erin Ballentine, David Martin, Robert Black
Guest: Jeff Dardozzi (ReEHS)

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 Meeting opened by Erin B. Welcomed David Martin- officially approved new BEC member. Thanked Clare B-S for her service to the BEC and Brandon Community.

4:40 *What more shall we do to educate ourselves and the Town of Brandon?* Develop contacts with Efficiency Vermont, BROOC, etc. and expand outreach potential. Make informational/educational brochures to build awareness in the community. (Current budget net \$1200+/- balance for promotional materials). Consider "Report Card" for Non-Town Energy usage. Do in-process photos, etc. from Gee's solar installation project. David M, Jim E, Jack S to work on background and other articles for outreach. Erin B. contact BROOC to draft an article.

4:50 Discussion of what support the Town will need if the solar bond passes. Review 2023 monthly energy bills from Elaine/Town Office. Jim E., Erin B. to work on this data. Evaluate the permitting and insurance program for the Town (Jim E. see ACORN's experience). Time: complete work by Sep/Oct 2024.

REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA

5:02 Erin B called meeting to order. Agenda and minutes adopted/approved unanimously.

5:02 Public comment – None.

5:05 Reflection: *How can we support the people who are barely getting by in Brandon as it relates to energy?* "Three Squares Vermont" fuel assistance. VT Dept of Children & Families have several programs. Challenge: how best to outreach to people who want help? Utilize the Library, Schools and Senior Center. Jeff H talk to Molly about Library "class". Contact Kathy Mathis at Senior Center for possible presentations?? Work with Town Mgr re: Offer Tax delinquent residents (may also need Energy bills assistance) to receive informational/help/resources brochure. Contact OVUHS "Food Shelf" program to add Energy info brochures to drive-through packages. Robert B. contact new DBA coordinator, Fiona Slattery to link into BEC initiatives.

5:20 Upcoming Events and Ongoing Project Reports:

- Jim E reviewed annual budget and MERP grant commitments. Planning for Earth Day event? VT Energy Education Program (VEEP) demonstration models. Electric

tools for Lending Library. July parade prep (Erin B, Robert B, Eve B, Kathy C, David M...other?)

- Planning for Button Up this fall - add a focus on non profits? Explore funding through Shirley Farr Trust? Work with “Window Dressers” to help promote the event. Consider inviting people required to do Community Service. Need to identify a Coordinator for volunteers...possible notice on Front Porch Forum & The Reporter.
- Grants and “Grant Watch”. Track opportunities with Solar Fest.
- The Brandon Town Energy Report Card Project. In process...see EDUCATION ITEMS above.
- Electric yards and lawns event this spring...TBD Purchase of electric yard equipment for lending library, grant for storage – confirm location for (,pbo;e?) storage unit ...Jim E send list of Equipment to David M to study layout ideas for unit. (\$2K in Town Budget...\$4K in SolarFest grant)
- Collaboration with OVUS...Erin B working on this.
- Bike rejuvenation project for this spring...David M, Eve B set up event – late Fall.
- Reporter articles..Jeff H can work on future articles.
- Town Energy Webpage...Erin working on this.

5:50 Next BEC meetings leadership: April (David), May (Robert), June (Eve)

5:55 Review agreements made. Next meeting **APRIL 1st** (*no foolin'*)

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***

5:59 PM Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Black/BEC Secretary

Distribution (via Email):
S. Hopkins, B. Moore, J. Emerson