

Brandon Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
4:30 PM Monday, APRIL 1, 2024 Meeting  
Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

Attendees: Jim Emerson, Jack Schneider, Erin Ballentine, David Martin, Robert Black,

Guest: Michael Bailey (SolarFest), Jeffrey Dardozi (ReBHS), Robert West (Goshen), Seth Hopkins (town manager)

**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 David Martin opened this session.

4:30 Proposed Town Energy Report Card Preliminaries – JS presented report and charts of Vermont Energy Action Network (EAN)...list of heat pumps installed in Brandon (601+), “weatherization” residential units and registered EV’s. GHG data to be released in June ’24. Action: Complete Report (1-pg/2 sided) before end of June (JE work w/Jeremy).

4:50 Education program for town groups regarding BROCC, Heat Squad and Efficiency VT (Library, schools, Senior Center, Food shelf group(s), and others). JE presented update w/ consideration to do a simple SURVEY of Town residents for feedback. JE to draft 5 questions to hand out at the April 30<sup>th</sup> vote. Attend and distribute info at Public Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA (Quorum of 5 BEC members present)

5:00 DM called the meeting to order.

5:00 Adopt agenda and minutes and invitation for public comments Mike Bailey suggested that any survey issued be based on “listening” to constituents to impact the design of the survey.

5:05 Reflection: How can we build more trust with all of our fellow citizens? DM shared quote from “Impact Network” book by David Erlichman about building trust. Emphasis on listening, consistency, and “cookies”... JE reserve booth space at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Central Park event.

5:15 SolarFest application for siting a 150kW solar system behind Ron’s Auto. Mike Bailey distributed materials and reported on the “Community Solar” project. Inviting 15-20 shareholders to become “owners”. Additional information will be available at the website: solarfest.org. JE will draft a letter of recommendation to forward to the Planning Commission.

5:30 Update on Upcoming Events and Ongoing Projects :

-Review of annual budget and MERP grant commitments. JE reviewed current and proposed budgets.

-Planning for Button Up this fall - add a focus on non-profits? Consider approaching Vermont Arts Council grant to support Energy Audits.

-Potential Grant training program? JE working to enlist support for grant writer. (Karen Farwell).

-Electric yards and lawns event this spring (Clare working on this...May 21.

-Purchase of electric yard equipment for lending library, grant for storage - ... needs further discussion of options to address location for storage. DM - equipmt est (\$1.7K)

-REPAIR FAIR with reBHS at Brandon Town Hall - 4/21 – (!-4 pm) Seeking Volunteers

-Laundromat energy savings recommendations TBD...(for new High St facility)

-Parade entry – RB to complete entry form. RB+EB work on design ...

-Reporter articles (deferred to nxt mtg)

-Collaboration with OVUS (deferred to nxt mtg)

-Town Energy Webpage (deferred to nxt mtg)

5:50 Meeting leadership for May is RB. EB for June?

Thank you to DM for leading this meeting.

Next meeting **MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**. We will open with the research/reflection: TBD by RB

5:57 Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Black / BEC Secretary