

Brandon Energy Committee

Minutes for 4:30 PM Monday, May 6, 2024 Meeting
At Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

EDUCATION ITEMS

4:30 Proposed Survey and distribution / Town Energy Report Card

- Erin put together excellent survey (Thanks, Erin!)
- How to distribute? Budget allows for mailings, but people are wary of unsolicited mailing
- Potentially hire local kids/teenagers to distribute/door-knock
- Connect with PTA at local schools?
- Send survey with taxes?
- Booth at parade/Farmer's Market
- ROBERT HAS VOLUNTEERED**
- Erin/Robert to develop poster/response version of survey for public display (DBA?)
- Report card handout to be displayed locally/printed for event handouts (Jack to work with Jeremy at RRPC to refine data)

44:55 Open meeting law training update - Erin

- As a town organization we are bound by OML
- Big takeaways--email groups are a problem when you email a quorum (essentially unwarned meeting)
- Quorate emails can be used to: schedule a meeting, organize an agenda, distribute material without violating OML
- Email chains can't be a forum for discussion without a warned meeting
- Unrelated social gatherings/conferences are fine as long as no business is discussed
- OML requires advance (48h) notice and agenda (24h for special meetings) for meetings in public places and on town website, public comment must be allowed but chair can define parameters for public comment
- Hybrid (partially online) meeting votes must be taken by roll call
- May be some changes to OML rules in July
- Erin will write summary for reference

REGULAR BEC MEETING AGENDA

5:05: Jack moves to adopt agenda, David seconds

- Jim proposes moving up electric tool event and lending library on the agenda
- Agenda approved unanimously by roll call
- Jim moves to approve minutes, Robert seconds, unanimously approved
- Invitation for public comment

5:09 Reflection: If the BEC were to succeed in engaging a majority of Brandon residents in supporting our Energy goals, please briefly describe your vision of what Brandon would look like twenty years from now in 2044.

5:20 Process for electing new committee officers next month - Jim

- Jim is stepping down from chair position in July after ~3 years

-Positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer

-Election to take place in June BEC meeting

5:26 Prospect of Town of Brandon as solar off taker and use of upfront funds

-After bond vote for solar project failed, several bidders for development of similar solar project on same setting. The Brandon Industrial Corporation has given Novus Energy option to lease same land. Novus has offered Town of Brandon a 15% energy discount, potential cash incentive to town, depending on BIC needs.

-Novus estimates roughly \$25,000-35,000 in profit yearly. Potential option for Town to buy out project in 15 years.

-Jack: opportunity for energy revolving loan fund based on monies in this project?

5:33: Federal "Solar For All" money coming to VT soon. What legwork needs to be done for Brandon to benefit?

5:35: Clare - Electric Lawn Mower event on 5/21 11 AM-1PM at Estabrook Park, BEC booth

-Not a sales event, opportunity for community to learn and experience new equipment

-Roadside signs?

5:42: Quick updates on ongoing projects:

REPAIR FAIR with reBHS at Brandon Town Hall - David - big success, very positive reception in town--Pittsford may be following suit

Tool Lending Library - David - \$4000 original budget may not be enough for an adequate supply of tools, proposal to create an initial storage unit for existing tools and seek additional grant funding. Design for unit is to be compact, towable/mobile (possibly by ebike) so folks can utilize the tools when in their neighborhood

Parade entry - complete entry form, set subgroup meeting - Robert/Eve/Erin/Nate signed up to create new additions for parade float

Collaboration with SolarFest - Robert looped in with relevant people, great resource

-Robert to write Reporter letter to the editor on future vision for a green Brandon

5:55 Meeting leadership for June is Eve? or Who?

Review agreements made. Thank ROBERT for leading the meeting.

5:57: Jim moves to adjourn, Jeff seconds, unanimous approval

Next meeting: June 3rd, to be run by Eve Beglarian