



# Brandon Energy Committee

Agenda for 4:30 PM Monday, February 2nd, 2026 Meeting  
Brandon Town Hall, 1 Conant Square, Basement Meeting Room



## BEC MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Joyous Emerson, Jack Schneider, Erin Ballantine, Serge Contnoir  
Guests: Jeff Dardozzi  
Zoom: none

Agenda and minutes adopted as written.

Invitation for public comments: none noted

*Reflection:* What is the most interesting energy related thing you've learned about recently? DM spoke about "virtual power plants" like what GMP does with batteries as a source, and EV chargers, DHW heaters, etc. to manage peak loads. JE spoke about the uses of open source Ai. SC spoke about China testing the use of dirigibles to generate power from wind.

### Updates on Upcoming Events, Ongoing Projects, and WHO is involved

#### **Nifty Thrifty Solar Projects and NOVUS contract - JE**

Discussion of what the town could do with ~13K tax credit from solar projects on PD and town garage and the payment (20-40K) to town from Novus Solar by way of agreement with BIC.

- MERP level 2 energy audits were performed in 2024 on the Town Hall, Town Office, Town Garage, & Wastewater buildings. BEC is proposing that the town seed a fund to implement some of the recommendations. JS- explained what Montpelier did in seeding a revolving loan fund w/20K that they used for energy improvement projects. He will look further into their experience. JE- said he talked with the town manager who liked the idea of a fund. JS- suggested that work at the wastewater plant might qualify for a grant from the Shirley Farr Trust. JE and DM will be meeting with the town manager to work on the scope of recommended improvements with the best payback and which can be handled by town staff/volunteers.

DM raised the idea of battery back-up power at town office for emergency management? Would not really save energy, but if batteries were added to police department they could in combination with the solar array planned. To be considered at a later date.

Bills supporting Balcony Solar Systems passed senate unanimously. Bill freezing Net Meter Credit Rate still in play. VNRC, VBSR and REV are organizing an event at the statehouse February 18th. This would include advocacy directly with state reps/committees, networking with other individuals and organizations involved in Energy issues, and learning about VNRCs plans for 2026 and beyond.

Brandon Energy Navigator Program is looking for more people for navigations. This is ideal to promote along with the Weatherization Resource Library at BFPL which has seen good use, especially in the library.

Ideas to promote these - Tabling at Town Meeting. Hand out materials at Transfer Station, Food Shelf, Senior Center, Nifty Thrifty. Both these programs run through the end of this year. Finding funding to keep them going should be a priority. JE to look into Grants.

Social Media: We have some great things to "toot our horn about". JD to look into grant possibilities.

Ideas include:

Testimonial videos - We have one from Eve. One of the Navigation clients may be open to a short video clip

Short video demos of FLIR camera and Air Quality Monitor available at BFPL

ToolShip promotional video

Demo of induction hot plate?

New Municipal Garage - This is a great opportunity to help make sure the garage is designed/built: To be as efficient as possible in order of have a low operating cost and to demonstrate efficient technology like solar, heat

pumps, LED lighting, etc. JS mentioned Glover Vt just built a 4-bay town garage for 550K, designed by Coe & Coe. JE mentioned architect that did the super efficient Charlotte town garage is in Warren, and will reach out. He emphasized importance of hiring an architect experienced in designing efficient town garage projects.

EV charger grants available - possible sites include: P.O., Hannaford. JD to look into this.

JE to check with Nifty Thrifty board regarding possible committee membership.

Vote to adjourn.