



**TOWN OF BRISTOL
ENERGY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 7:00 PM
Lawrence Memorial Library**

MINUTES

**Energy Committee
Members**

Ian Albinson, Chair
Sally Burrell
Richard Butz
Michael Corey
Liston Freeman
John McCormick

Energy Committee Members present: Ian Albinson, Sally Burrell, Richard Butz, Liston Freeman, John McCormick.

Energy Committee Advisor: Matt Sharpe

Others present: Maggie Eaton, Kevin Hanson, John Moyers, NEAT

I. Call to order: 7:10 PM

II. New business

Candidate Interview: Kevin Hanson

- Main interest is getting gas to Bristol and offering that perspective to the BEC. Background - construction, buildings, Simmons Precision/Goodrich facilities manager in Vergennes, experience in energy conservation and construction bidding and conversion of oil to liquid gas, maintains his home. Feels that natural gas is an "Exit fuel" for fossil fuels. Kevin is uncomfortable with the idea of gas not coming to Bristol in the next 15 or more years.

Candidate Interview: John Moyers

- Main interest is efficiency and comes from a business perspective. He has been aware of the science of climate change for decades. His priorities are making living more affordable for people and making business viable. He suggested Bristol's revolving loan fund as a means of conversion to more efficiency. He cited Bristol Beverage as an example of electric cost savings when installing solar panels.

Reserved shelf at LML for Energy Committee materials for the public –
Richard suggests offering resources including documentation on energy efficiency, climate solutions (ie Drawdown), and links or a bookmark to a folder with energy resources. **Ian will ask Nancy.**

Green Up Day expo event –

- Green-Up Event May 4, 10-2 - Collaborate with Conservation Commission.
- Carolyn Dash directs Green Up Day activities on the green. **Ian, Richard**
- Rain Barrel Workshop - **Richard**
- Milk weed and Pollinators - **Gail**
- SunCommon bouncy house - **Ian**
- Electric Bicycles (Gerry and Janet) - **Ian**
- Electric power equipment (Steve of Champlain Valley Compost) - **Sally**
- EV test drives: Tesla, Nissan (Dave Roberts, Drive Electric) - **Ian**



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- Musicians: Nate? - Sally
- Food Truck - Ian
- Farms - Sally
- Non-profit food tables - Sally
- Non-profit tables - Richard

III. Current business

Vermont Gas – Rescinding Gas Agreement – The select board was asked by VGS on Nov 7, 2018 to rescind their Agreement due to the lawsuit and permitting time and expense. The Selectboard voted to rescind the Agreement on March 18, 2019. The gas project could be considered in the future, hopefully with a much improved process, and an Agreement signing would be scheduled.

Public Outreach (added item) – John suggests having a global warming forum with students at Mt Abe expressing what they know about global warming or what they are concerned about regarding their future. They could apply by writing an essay to be chosen as a speaker. Discussion of whether this is under the purview of the BEC. Richard and John will pursue personally, outside of the BEC. The committee will consider at a later date their role in climate education as it relates to efficiency, conservation and transition to renewable energy.

Button-up Hero Program + DIY Weatherization Challenge – Sally is following up with residents who have proposals for work and entering EVT data. DIY Workshop with Dave Keefe was informative, but not well attended. FPF promotion is still useful for public education. New Efficiency Vermont Weatherization Program - Matt Sharpe

- expands to allow any contractors
- no test
- Attic \$250 rebate + Basement \$250 rebate = \$500 total for both
- Home Performance (or DIY with) Energy Star Contractors - \$1500 rebate for both.
- Income Eligible Adder - \$500
- Average Cost for attic and basement - \$7000. This would/could include other work. \$1500 would be the average incentive per project - actual results may vary significantly.

EV Supply Equipment Grant Program – April 30 deadline. Ian contacted Chris at Bristol Electronics. Maggie shared that GMP offers a free home charger installation with a \$30/month flat rate for 1 car's usage. Town placement - check into school or Bristol Works for higher use. Ian to ask ACRPC.

Transportation Climate Initiative – Scott's goals are high for EV's. Support for a "RGGI" on liquid fuels to help fund the transition to EV's is in the legislature. BEC letter for Fred to deliver to Gov. Scott. John

Town Energy Audit – Liston and Matt will lead the way and BEC members will help. Need to have electric accounts. Ian ask Valerie?

Bristol Town Office
Holley Hall
1 South Street
Bristol, VT 05443
(802) 453-2410
www.bristolvt.org



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Performance Contracting Support Letter – Encourage this tax neutral approach with any school/town renovations to offset costs with energy savings.

Ian will send (Faesy's?) or our own letter to select board.

Student participation on the Energy Committee – Richard and John will discuss and report back.

Role of Energy Committee and members place in it – Allow extra time at next meeting to discuss, using the Town Plan. Determine relationship with community and with select board, including liaisons with town commissions. Determine Strategies. Ian to share handbook from VECAN.

Annual Committee organization matters (added item) – Election of new Chair and Secretary. I. Albinson made a motion to elect S. Burrell as Chair and Richard Butz as Secretary. Seconded by L. Freeman. So voted.

IV. Approval of minutes from last meeting February 20, 2019. – So voted.

V. Next Meeting

April 17, 2019 – location change to Town Offices. Reschedule joint meeting since we have so much on our agenda. Sally to let R. Faesy know.

VI. Executive Session – I. Albinson moved to enter executive session for personnel matters. R Butz seconded. So voted.

The committee met in executive session from 9:10pm to 9:23pm. Upon returning to open session, the Energy Committee voted to continue the search to fill the vacant board position.

VII. Adjourn

Voting Members

Ian Albinson, Sally Burrell, Mike Corey, Liston Freeman, John McCormick, Richard Butz

Advisors

Bob Donnis, Matt Sharpe, Wendy Wilson