

Town of Bristol
Energy Committee
Draft Minutes 4/15/2020

Meeting remotely via Zoom: Sally Burrell, Stephen Taylor, Mike Corey, Carl Engvall, Richard Butz

1. It was moved that we contact Lance and Liston to determine their status regarding membership on the committee. Seconded and passed, Sally will contact.
2. Committee decided not to participate in this year's Green-up Day Expo because of concerns about bringing people together too soon because of the corona virus.
3. **Update on Solar Proposal**
 - A. **Selectboard Action**
 - The Select Board has expressed qualified support to proceed with a non-binding MOU with Acorn pending several concerns.
 - It will need to be vetted by the town's attorney, logistical issues regarding movement and storage of materials at the Public Works site need to be negotiated, and lease payment specifics need to be finalized.
 - B. **Benefits of the Project for Bristol Residents**
 - The community solar model proposed is a co-op, owned by Vermonters with 60% of the shares reserved for Bristol residents, businesses and not-for-profits.
 - All energy and Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) stay in Vermont, helping us reach renewable energy goals.
 - Purchase of shares (one panel/share) contributes to stabilization of electricity rates and lowers electricity costs for shareowners going forward.
 - The project makes it possible for Bristol residents to share in low cost, sustainable electricity when it's not feasible for them to have panels on their houses or properties.
 - There will be annual lease payments to the town for the use of the landfill site.
 - Acorn Energy Co-op is a not-for-profit. The nine volunteer board members will manage the project for 6 years, after which the local shareholders will decide on how it will be managed.

- Monitors giving real-time performance will be offered to the high school for education purposes. Acorn is willing to introduce the project to students if appropriate.
- If deadlines are met, electricity is projected to begin flowing by the spring of 2021.

C. Communication and Public Engagement

- Select Board and Energy Committee meeting minutes are on the town website.
- Information and details will be posted on the town and energy committee websites. Carl will contact Acorn regarding outreach strategies. He will check with Ian to see if he can be authorized to edit and update the energy committee website.
- A Zoom meeting hosted by the Town will include an information presentation by Acorn (**Now set for 4/23 at 7:00pm.**)
- Acorn is preparing an information piece that will be linked to Front Porch Forum and the town website
- All meetings are recorded via NEAT TV
- Richard will make a sandwich board with a poster alerting residents to the project and place it at the trash collection site on Saturday, and in front of Holley Hall during the week.

D. Update on the Window Dressers Project

- Stephen reported that the director has indicated that everything is on hold pending the corona virus status. There are two possibilities: a shortened program in the fall or no fall program and a shortened program in the spring. They will decide sometime in June. At this time nobody should be measuring windows in homes.

Richard Butz 4/18/2020