

Bristol Energy Committee
5/20/2020 Meeting Notes

Present (via Zoom): Sally Burrell, Stephen Taylor, Mike Corey, Carl Engvall, John McCormack, Richard Butz.

Meeting began at 7:10

1. Bristol Community Solar update

- MOU has been signed
- Lease agreement is being worked out and expected shortly
- All seems to be on track for a fall 2020 or Spring 2021 start of a project that will take about three months to complete once begun.

2. Pollinator plants in solar arrays

- Acorn Energy will seed pollinator plants as part of the Bristol solar project.

3. VT Climate Legislation:

- The Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act is in the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and is expected to be discussed this week with possible Senate vote and referral to the Governor next week.
- S.337 and S.185, have passed the Senate which will allow our efficiency utilities the flexibility to save Vermonters more money and cut more climate pollution, and enable planning for the public health effects of the climate crisis.* (See Climate Legislation Review below.)
- Energy committee members are being asked to contact their representatives, thanking them for their work on Covid issues and asking them to support climate legislation. Our committee will pass this information along to other energy committees around the state.

4. Using Federal Assistance Funds to Buy Heat Pumps

- John suggested that we contact weatherization and fuel support NGO's around the state to lobby for a portion of federal Covid \$ to be used to buy and install heat pumps after low income homes are weatherized. This would lower fuel costs and carbon emissions and the demand on fuel assistance funds.
- John will work up a letter to this effect.

5. Addison County Regional Planning Commission Events and Resources

- a. Check the new energy page on the ACRPC website for info and to suggest items to include.
- b. The Vermont Energy and Climate Action Google Group mentioned is hosted by the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, providing a creative and dynamic environment for Town Energy Committees to share their successes and challenges and to collaborate on initiatives, programs and projects. It's a way to keep everyone informed of upcoming events and opportunities that will further the work of responding to climate change in Vermont. There's a zoom "meet and greet" on May 22 at 4:00.

c. Peruse the whole website to become familiar with the resources it offers.

6. Approve April 15, 2020 Minutes: moved and approved

RAB 5/25/2020

* Vermont Climate Legislative Review: Where Are We in a Covid-19 Age?
May 16, 2020

H. 688 The Vermont Global Warming Solutions Act

- This bill passed the house on February 20, Faith Climate Action Day (when we were there), and is **now in the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee**. This is the bill that turns climate goals into mandates.

S. 337 An Act Relating to Energy Efficiency Utilities and Programs to Reduce Greenhouse Gase emissions in the Thermal and Transportation Sectors.

- **This bill passed the Senate 27-1 this week**. It will give electric efficiency utilities the flexibility to spend some of their funding on transportation and heating efficiency projects. It is not expected to affect rates.

S. 267 An Act Related to the Renewable Energy Standard

- This bill would require Vermont Utilities to be 100% renewable by 2030 with 20% in-state production. This bill was passed by the Finance Committee and **Returned to the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy**.

The Transportation and Climate Initiative

- Not yet a bill, Senator and President pro-tem. Tim Ashe has **delayed action on this subject until after the fall election**.

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