

Bristol Energy Committee

Nov 18, 2020

Draft Minutes

Members present: Sally Burrell, Stephen Taylor, Mike Corey, John McCormick, Richard Butz

Attendees: Jim Quaglino, Jono Chapin, Shawn Kimball with NEATV

- 1. Bristol Rec Club: Porter Knight requested advice for increased efficiency in lighting at the rink** since the electrical cost is high and they'd like to offer night use of the rink. Does the energy committee have ideas and is solar a possibility/more affordable?

Discussion: The first step is to make sure all fixtures have the highest efficiency bulbs (LED). Then consider how much use is expected, factoring in best and worst case scenarios, to determine how much electricity is needed. Then choose the best source of electricity for filling that need affordably (the present GMP account, a solar net-metering agreement, buying into the landfill community solar in 2021?). Other considerations: How will Covid affect the ability/safety to have athletic group activity? Does renting an efficient lighting system make sense for limited events?

***See informative email** below from Matt Sharpe, BEC advisor

- 2. Community projects/action for energy and emissions reduction**

Brainstorm virtual series: invite community to share their ideas on FPFMowing: neighbors share an electric mower, push mower or other landscaping equipment; or an electric mower owner leases to neighbors; replace lawn with attractive ground cover; share/lease/barter yard space to others for growing food.

Transportation: bicycles; organize a small, safe shopping pod to pick up those a few extra things needed by members when one person is going to the store

- 3. Update on Bristol Community Solar (AES3)** - highlights from Richard's conversations with Ben Marks of Acorn Renewable Energy: Richard will begin outreach to churches who are eligible for purchasing 10-20% of the array. Bristol residents will have first dibs on 60%, giving many people the opportunity to own solar for long term savings and emissions reduction. Permitting was held up with GMP's system's impact study, which is expected to be ready by Dec 14th, in time for applying for the Public Utilities Permit. An "A" investor has recently been found which is needed for Aegis to pre-purchase equipment while there's still an incentive that makes the project feasible. Construction may possibly begin in the spring of 2021.

- 4. Jono Chapin from the Conservation Commission** invited the Energy Committee to discuss how the two groups might partner/take turns in engaging the public on climate education and action. Ideas shared: inspirational guest speakers (eg Richard Faesy on weatherizing 80,000 VT homes); share Sierra Club webinar recordings; zoom presentations featuring climate solutions; encourage participation with LED shop lights that Richard will donate.

Matt Sharpe's input: The Rec field lights (20 lights around the field) were evaluated for a switch to LED a number of years ago and it wasn't cost effective since the usage was so low. It was a very expensive upgrade so you could see if prices have come down... but still, with usage so low a retrofit is unlikely to be cost effective. If you plan to use them more that could make it make sense. If any fail, consider switching them out to LED.

The ice rink has 6 (Metal Halide – I think – pole lights). I'd be happy to assess savings potential of these lights and the first step to do that would be to get an estimate to switch them to LED. During that estimate, note the existing fixture wattage and the proposed fixture wattage. It is likely not cost effective unless you would like to plan to use it more, in which case estimate the number of hours a year you plan to use them and we can estimate savings from that.

Electric account – do you know if the rink lights are on the same account as the rec field lights? That looks like Rate 6 which is something like \$0.18 per kwh. The rec field total annual usage is around 2680 kwh or \$482 per year. It looks like the ice rink usage (Jan and Feb) is about 800 kwh or \$144 per year. That low usage makes it hard to justify any efficiency measure unless you would like to invest in the future increase in usage of the lights. Otherwise, solar to cover all the Rec club usage may be the way to go. When thinking about solar however, non-profits can't usually take advantage of the tax credits available (no tax, no credit to take) so you may consider a creative option to either join a community solar group or create one yourself by bringing in an "owner" with taxable income to lease your rooftop to in exchange for the solar energy offtake (or some of it).

I'm not sure I can join tonight's meeting but will if I can. Good luck – let me know how I can help.