

Bristol Energy Committee 2/17/21 Minutes

NEAT recording available

BEC members present: Sally Burrell, Mike Corey

7 other attendees: presenters and the public

1. Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions with Electric Lawn Care Equipment

Presentation by Steve Wisbaum covered long term cost benefits and vast reduction of CO₂, maintenance, repairs and noise. Newer technology and many available models offer competitive performance for lawn mowers and trimmers. Residential walk behind mowers range \$150-650 and GMP offers \$50 rebates. You get what you pay for in performance and run time. Purchase to fit your needs.

There are also residential riding, robotic, and commercial mowers. Jay Thomas, owner of Bear Mountain Mowing, has enjoyed using all electric equipment in his business for 5 years.

2. Green Peak Solar is mainly a wholesale generator of renewable power, offering low cost electricity to the grid for Vermont customers. The planned 2.2 MW array for the plateau site off South Street is screened well by trees, and during the leaf off season it's relatively screened. The electricity produced will help achieve goals in Bristol's Enhanced Energy Plan. The project's timeline: land agreement with Lathrop's Feb 2020, Town inquiry Feb 2020, invited abutters to site Dec. 2020, provided 45-day notice to abutters Jan 2021, anticipate filing Certificate of Public Good March 2021.

The associated battery storage project will help reduce peak load and improve grid reliability for GMP. The solar and battery projects together will pay \$24,000/year to Bristol. All power and Renewable Energy Credits will go to Vermont. Green Peak will consider dual-use agriculture opportunities and will stock pile ag soils on the land to return them upon decommission and reclamation.

3. Further questions from attendees and discussion

Troy Paradee - how can students learn from this project?

Green Peak is willing to offer an educational presentation for students on battery storage and peak "shifting and shaving." Chris and Nathaniel are able to create a website showing electricity production information for students. They expect the array to be one of the highest producing in the state due to the 60 degree tilt, bifacial panels tipping East to West throughout the day.

Troy: How can the Rec Club reduce it's electric cost and CO₂ footprint with solar energy?

Answer: subscribe to Bristol Community Solar, Acorn Energy Co-op's project on the landfill.

Troy: We need charging stations in town. Could the Rec Club host one?

Answer: BEC will look into it. Green Peak is willing to share what they learn as they research charging stations for their own towns.