

Bristol Energy Committee Meeting March 2023

Draft

3/15/2023, 7pm ET, Holly Hall

Attendees: Ben Skolozdra (BEC), Richard Butz (BEC Co-Chair), Sally Burrell (BEC), Carl Engval (BEC Co-Chair), Mike Corey (BEC), Allison Puliot (member of the public), NEAT-TV

Introductions

- Allison is a recently retired community member who is now Program Manager for Window Dressers for the state of Vermont (considering joining the Energy Committee!)
- BEC members introduced themselves

Public Comment

- None

General Updates

- Meeting with Brandon Energy Committee on 6 March 2023
 - o Richard met with Brandon committee (met through Window Dressers). Brandon was most interested in community solar project.
 - o Brandon visited us before (via Zoom) in January 2023
 - o They were interested in how we spent BEC time discussing state legislation. Brandon seems more involved in community projects.
 - o Brandon did a hands-on all day energy workshop, with half a dozen stations with hands on demonstrations (for example, different weatherization techniques) and everyone who attended (~50 people) got a kit to take home. Is this something we could facilitate in Bristol?
 - o Richard has a few folks in mind for who could work these local workshops (need people with expertise)
 - o Follow-up to demonstrations was proposed in-home but Brandon put the brakes on it (liability). That seems sensible. We want more outward facing opportunities to interface with the community.
 - o Sally mentioned that in the past there was a demonstration at the fire house on constructing inserts to people's homes for doors to prevent drafts (DIY approach). Energy committee adjacent but not a direct BEC event (not a Button Up Event).
 - o We should ask Bristol Selectboard about going into people's homes if it comes to that
- Meeting with Maddison Shropshire (ACRPC) and Bristol Select Board Chair Ian Albinson on Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)
 - o Plan has not been opened so no one is registered with the state yet.
 - o In March (right now) applications are opened for \$4k community grants for "nearly anything". The idea is you could hire someone to write grants, unclear on quality for \$4k but it's an idea. Previous item on workshops could be a funding item (teaching supplies?)
 - o Applications for Energy Assessments later this month or early April. Level 1 walkthrough (Holly Hall, Library, possibly Howden Hall) but we are going to propose a Level 2 for at most one of these buildings for an investment grade audit. This audit would include a lot of options including geothermal (most likely Library). Ian agrees

the library would be the candidate for the Level 2, not to the exclusion of the other two buildings. When MERP opens up for applications, Madison will help us apply. The higher the energy burden, the higher up the list on a town-by-town basis (Bristol is in the highest category for this).

- EV Chargers for Bristol
 - o Part of the potential grant funding. Lots of juggling for how the funds are spent/ installed and where is it most advantageous for funding. High on the list for ARPA (is this how we want to fund it? ARPA is restrictive). More interface needed with Selectboard on funding but they seem interested in moving forward.

Old Business

- Plan to organize local weatherization team(s)
 - o In general, do we want to pursue the idea of a workshop with multiple booths/exhibits? Consensus of the committee is yes, good idea to at least facilitate the workshop. Who can take the lead on this item?
 - o Spring boarding off Carl's past idea of in-home teams. Carl will be point person on organizing the workshop (Mike to assist). Look for fall 2023. Carl will reach out to Matt Sharpe (Efficiency Vermont) as a starting point.
- Window Dressers 2023/2024
 - o Allison to give us an update on what's happening in the area.
 - Middlebury Rotary is not doing a Window Dressers event this year (contemplating every other year?)
 - Talking to someone in Brandon but unclear if Brandon has enough people to get it going. 2024 for Brandon maybe
 - Charlotte is in for 2023. They offered to help Vergennes and Monkton.
 - Williston and South Burlington teaming up in 2023.
 - o Maggie is noncommittal about Bristol 2023. Allison indicates that there is significant demand in Bristol. 83 requests in Bristol/Lincoln/New Haven this year by mid-March 2023 alone.
 - o Are we willing to do one? Charlotte would build them if we had people measure and volunteer to construct.
 - o Seems most efficient to do multiple towns in one build location. Notable that in 2022 there were more builds in Vermont than Maine.
 - o Window Dressers prefers a minimum of 250 builds at once (83 for Bristol/Lincoln/New Haven would be a huge dent in that)
 - o Sally and Allison could team up to do the measuring and calculating/order for inserts in the Bristol/Lincoln/New Haven area.
 - o Do we know when Charlotte is doing their build? Unclear at this point. Allison can reach out to see.
 - o Allison may have a lead on a laser level device for Bristol.
 - o Do we want a build of our own? No. Would we be willing to help Charlotte? Yes.
 - o Two measuring teams at most would be needed. We did last year with one team so we think it can work.
 - o 250 is the minimum for builds is what Window Dressers prefers. Middlebury did 233 last year.

- o Richard mentioned he wants to check out the apartments on main street (landlords?) for potential inserts.
- o BEC is agreeable that we are willing to measure in Bristol/Lincoln/New Haven.
- Energy Committee Presence at Local Events (Pocock Rocks, Harvest Festival)
 - o Do we want to have a booth/table at Pocock Rocks?
 - Tentative date June 17
 - Advertise window dressers?
 - Electrical lawn equipment?
 - Weather stripping/window kits?
 - Typical items for Harvest Festival.
 - Allison could help (get us samples for window inserts, outreach materials, etc.)
 - Testimonials from people (Allison could help, Window Dressers has this available)
 - Case study literature
 - Consensus is yes
 - o Yes for Harvest Festival
 - o Bristol Farmers Market?
 - Once per month maybe but not every time
- Schedule new EV Vehicle event for the public?
 - o Yes. Seemed like a popular event with good turnout last year. GMP and community members bring their electrical vehicles for the community to tour/ask questions/ride along, etc.
 - o Also e-bike, electric mower, electric chainsaw
 - o Can we coincide this with a farmers market? We did early October the last two years. Once we know the farmers market dates we can assess.

New Business

- Working Session on Implementation of Energy Committee Goals outlined in the Town Energy Plan
 - o Refer to PDF attachment for notes
- Recruit New Bristol Energy Committee Members
 - o Potential for Allison to join the Committee formally! Allison will submit an application to the town.

Adjourned 8:30pm

Next meeting: 19 April 2023, 7pm