

Bristol Energy Committee Meeting July 2024  
7/17/2024, 7pm ET, Zoom & In-Person at Holly Hall

Attendees: Carl Engvall (BEC In-person), Richard Butz (BEC in-person), Sally Burrell (BEC in-person), Allison Pouliot (BEC via Zoom), Ben Skolozdra (BEC via Zoom), Jim Quaglino (member of the public via Zoom)

Citizens Comments/Concerns

- None

Approve June 2024 meeting minutes

- Approved unanimously.

Approve agenda with additions noted below

- Middlebury Rotary will be hosting October 24-30 for window dressers build
  - The link to sign up can be found here.
- There is a county-wide energy fair on September 21 in Vergennes
- There was a VECAN Webinar on 6/10 (rewiring resiliency calculator topic) which was helpful and informative, BEC could use for Harvest Festival; Efficiency Vermont calculator on a computer to show to folks.
- VECAN Conference on 6/1 (Sally and Allison) was useful and informative this year talking about flooding resiliency (very timely)

Update on EV Chargers

- Nothing to report at this time. L3 charger application is in and it's a matter of waiting to see which towns will be awarded.

Update on MERP

- Sally, Richard, David, and Allison met with Maddi (ACRPC)
- ACRPC wants town to submit ASAP. We may need hard dollar figures in by end of September for specific projects.
- Richard did a breakdown of Holly Hall, looking to the rest of BEC for our assessment of it.
- There's no reason not to ask for everything on the list – Maddi ACRPC. No town money, it all comes from the state.
- Richard went through Holly Hall recommendations and pulled out just about everything except battery storage, which was discussed with ACRPC Maddi. Given propane generator outside and battery storage must be in a conditioned space, there are few options for locating them.
  - For example, a new oil-fired furnace (higher efficiency) and heat pumps for the second floor (desire for summer cooling, to be used as a cooling center)
  - Also included the circulators. Big electrical consumption saver from existing circulators
  - \$144k for Holly Hall overall (based on Richard's calculations and estimates)
  - Should we take this approach at Library and Houden Hall? Seems reasonable, we provide the report and our independent assessment with general estimated costs (Allison volunteering to do this for the Library and Houden).
  - Once we turn over BEC numbers, the Town will take next steps including engaging an independent engineer or SME assessor to ensure we (as general laypeople) are not off by a large factor.

- BEC special meeting to develop prioritized list to present to Selectboard
  - Tentatively scheduled for 7/25 in the evening, Richard to confirm public warning requirements and room availability.

#### BEC by-laws update

- Jim Quaglino provided detailed comments to BEC on the by-laws for consideration. Richard has distributed the updated by-laws to BEC to consider, we will give ourselves another meeting to review.
- Richard will inform the Selectboard to put the previous version of the by-laws on hold while we consider these additional helpful changes.

#### Update on TENS (Thermal Energy Networks) for Bristol

- Looking at north side of main street into the Pomerlau real estate area.
- Starting to reach out to local business and property owners to see who may be interested.
- Focus on that area as a main heavy heat load with the highest propensity to be interested (Shaw's, Cubbers, Snap's, Walgreens, etc.).
- Consider expansion across the street later, once there is a more defined plan.

#### Update on Geothermal System for Bristol Schools

- Carl reached out to Matt Sharpe (Efficiency Vermont) about potential next steps
- Energy audit could be the next step but more analysis from a subject matter expert (Efficiency Vermont)
- We have detailed raw data so in order to assess whether the energy usage is reasonable or not is next step before looking into why the energy usage is what it is
- We have data on Bristol Elementary School and Mount Abe High School
- High School looked relatively low on a BTU/sq ft but that includes the wood chip boiler (how much energy is in a wood chip?).

#### Discuss plan to bring EV's and EV equipent to the next July 4 Parade

- BEC should consider organizing an EV float for the parade
- BEC agrees this is a good idea

#### Additional Item

- Do we think we will participate in the Harvest Festival?
  - BEC agrees yes, we should start brainstorming and get it going. Sally will sign us up and get a location.

ADJOURNED 7:30pm ET

Next regularly scheduled meeting: 21 August 2024, 7pm ET