

Bristol Energy Committee Meeting 21 August 2024  
8/21/2024, 7pm ET, Zoom Only

Attendees: Richard Butz (BEC in-person), Jim Quaglino (member of the public via Zoom), David Flaschenriem (BEC via Zoom), Sally Burrell (BEC via Zoom)

Citizen Comments

- None

Approve Agenda

- No changes

Approve July Meeting Minutes

- Approved unanimously

Discussion regarding appointment of Chair

- Carl has expressed his desire to step away from the BEC indefinitely.
- What is the role of the BEC Chair?
  - Posting meeting notice on FPF including the agenda
  - Convening the meeting at Holly Hall
  - Recording the meeting
  - Running through the agenda
- Richard is struggling with the IT side of the meeting setup
- Richard would like to step down from Chair and be general committee member.
- As part of this discussion, BEC feels we should try to actively recruit new members. We have no set maximum so we can add as many as the Selectboard wants.
  - Sally met with Thomas (member of the public from the last committee meeting) and he expressed interest.
- For historical record, before Richard and Carl became the current co-chairs, Sally was the lone chair person.
  - Richard thinks the rotational chair was good and functional. He and Carl rotated monthly.
  - Ben asked if it would be possible to have the BEC meetings remotely every month and not have an in-person meeting. Jim Q. mentioned that there are other committees in town that are remote-only so it seems possible.
- Richard is having personal life constraints which preclude him from maintaining as active of a role in the committee.
- Ben to verify with Valerie if BEC can be help via Zoom only with acceptable advanced notice of the public and with our dedicated and functional Zoom link every month.
  - BEC believes that each committee has it's own Zoom link.
  - Prior to making any decisions, BEC will defer for a month on formal changes. We will do Zoom only in September. Richard expressed that he can stay on for Chair as long as he can do it from home at all times.
- Ben can set up the next meeting, transmit the agenda, etc. This will include sending the agenda to the Town Clerk and post on Front Porch Forum.
- David expressed willingness to be the point of contact with Maddi Shropshire at ACRPC for MERP going forward.
- Ben will continue to do meeting notes, will write the agenda, and post on Front Porch Forum. Ben will send the agenda to the Town Clerk the Thursday before the meeting.

- Sally will put out a call to action on FPF for new members with a link to the committee application from the Town website.

#### Update on EV Chargers

- No update. No communication on the grant award at this time.

#### Update on MERP

- No update on the application or deadline to submit application. BEC has not heard from Maddi at ACRPC about the outside consultant that will be hired to assist with the application process.
- Feedback on Selectboard meeting on 8/12
  - BEC feels overall it went well.
  - David did a good job describing the scope at each site with the caveats that pricing is probably low in our estimates but given that there is an outside consultant to help us with the application process (ACRPC) we feel good about revising the numbers up because the maximum award per town is \$500k.
  - Selectboard seemed receptive to the projects and scopes included.
  - Architect will help revise scope and pricing for application process.
  - Biggest concern at this point is the timing. Middle of September to submit the MERP application seems very aggressive.
  - We have to trust ACRPC, outside consultants, and Vermont BGS department.
  - There are no applications yet so we can't fill them out. Seems hard to imagine mid-September is the application date but we can't say for sure.

#### Harvest Festival

- All booths are taken.
- Week before Harvest Festival is Vergennes Energy Fair with various energy committees and other county institutions.
  - 10a-3p at Vergennes City Park on 21 September 2024.
  - Go as private citizens and report back in the October meeting on what we found.
- We could connect with people at Harvest Festival but there is no real option for a local booth.
- Let's plan to go at Vergennes City Park for the fair and report back in October.

#### Update on Geothermal System for Bristol Schools

- No update at this time due to Carl's indefinite absence from the BEC.

#### Update on By-Laws Revision

- Selectboard (Ian) made some edits which Richard incorporated. David made edits as well which have been captured. Are we ready to submit to Selectboard again for adoption?
  - Motion made to transmit by Sally, second by David, motion carries unanimously

ADJOURNED 8:02pm ET

Next regularly scheduled meeting: 18 September 2024, 7pm ET