

Bristol Energy Committee

October 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

7:00pm by Zoom Only

Attendees: Ben Skolozdra, Richard Butz, David Flaschenriem, Carl Engvall, Allison Pouliout, Ken Bauer (Solalect, member of the public), Jim Quaglino (Member of the Public), Sally Burrell

- i. Citizen Comments/Concerns
 - None
- ii. Approve Agenda
 - Added items x and xi below at Richard's request
- iii. Approve September Meeting Minutes
 - Approved
- iv. Guest Speaker: Ken Bauer, SolaFlect
 - Round table and a presentation
 - Goals for Solalect: share their technology, field questions from BEC, see if there are potential applications.
 - Solalect sees society slowly shifting to EVs and thinking about how to charge these vehicles
 - Big items: EV charging lags significantly, charging will overwhelm utility infrastructure, and grid-power isn't necessarily CLEAN energy. Employees are increasingly expecting EV charging
 - EV fleet growth slide: US lags EU and China but coming
 - Good business case: need to have it at offices/job sites/manufacturers for employees who expect it
 - 80-15-5 (home, work, public) charging distribution
 - 12 years of tracker installations, over 1200 in VT/NH/MA/CA, 45 million machine hours
 - Off-grid solar EGV charger, installs in one day, movable and does not take up parking spaces
 - No digging or trenching.
 - There are two in Middlebury College and Middlebury Marbleworks. Dartmouth has one too. These are “lease” type.
 - One installation: (4) level 2 chargers. 10,000kWh per unit in a year (could be divided by 4 cars, 3 cars, etc.)
 - If only one car: it gets full output. 2/3/4 cars get divided output
 - No battery between panel and car.
 - It will provide a minimum level of charge (level 2) or none at all if not enough sunlight.
 - It's all about “sipping” charge instead of “filling up” like a gas engine.

- Snow not a concern, they store vertically at night.
- How to monetize or pay?
 - Several models available. No retail option, idea is for a subsidize/employee contribution model (middlebury and dartmouth)
 - Card based payment
 - Purchase model, Lease model, and Direct-to-Consumer model options
 - Lease model matches MERP grant funding (approved use)
- Concrete block with a drilled hole in two places. There is a wind sensor built in, stores at 20 mph or higher wind speeds
 - In the Lease model, installation, service, and maintenance are included.
- Bristol applications: high school parking lot (would need to be for high school staff only), less of a good fit for park & ride because it's randomized and NOT available for pay-as-you-go. High density housing (apartments)
- There is a good question about equity and democratization of benefits. EV users are currently an “elite few” so it is theoretically unfair to have a benefit for something exclusive but in this case it is a solar charger so it's a marginal improvement on utility-based charging units (small step on a much larger societal journey).
- Crowd funding it would be equivalent of \$83/month (4k per year, 4 parking spots, etc.)
- They can do a 4x1 side by side model instead of an X shape (25' cords, coil or retractable)
- Not a great application for homes (you're only there when it's dark)
- Might be interesting to approach All Earth Renewables about a tracker in their parking lot. Or Bristol Works.
- Ken can provide some fliers and tech specs for us to use when discussing a crowd-sourced option with local folks.
- Discuss with Bristol CORE and how it could be a benefit to the local businesses.
- After holidays, plan an informational session for the town and local businesses.
- Could be a “temporary” feasibility study angle. Lots to consider.
- Sally to reach out to Bristol Works Kevin

v. Update on EV Chargers

- No update, still waiting to hear if the grant has been awarded to Bristol.

vi. Update on MERP and Post-MERP

- Application submitted, Allison & David were at Selectboard meeting and discussed deadline. Should hear the week of Monday 21 October, within two weeks the town has to sign the grant funding agreement (by 29 November 2024), get on next selectboard meeting agenda once we have word on it being awarded.

- ACRPC Maddi Shropshire has left her position so there is a new point person Mike Winslow, ACRPC is hiring another person but it will take time.
 - Potential for a Building Committee if the MERP project goes forward to provide public input (David interested, Matt Sharpe communicated his interest as well). Discuss with Selectboard on this possibility once the project becomes real.
 - Do we have funding from MERP for Solaflect? Should reach out to Selectboard to clarify if we have anything left from Middlebury CEAC/Navigator program split mini-MERP grant. How do we find out about that? Sally will reach out to Valerie as a starting point.
 - Allison will email Valerie about getting on 28 October 2024 agenda to update them on grant status.
- vii. Vergennes Energy Fair Wrap-Up
- Sally was there and was how we got connected with Solaflect (Ken)
 - Few members of the public but all the interested parties shared information amongst themselves.
 - Allison chatted with CEAC about how to get the Navigator program out in the public and off the ground. Allison may distribute some materials at the local food shelf.
- viii. Button-Up Campaign @ Bristol Farmer's Market Wrap-Up
- Allison and Sally thought it was a good experience and we should do it again next year, fewer people because it was the end of the season. Maybe do it early next year? Or do it once per month throughout the summer?
 - If we have more activities planned for the fall we can be more promotional and organized (EV fair or Button Up workshop for example).
- ix. Update on By-Laws for Selectboard Approval
- Richard has master copy with all comments incorporated. Can we send to Valerie to get it on the agenda for 10/28/2024 meeting? Richard will send to see when Selectboard can consider it.
- x. Efficiency Vermont Grants & Air Filter Workshop w/ Matt Sharpe
- Richard trying to schedule it for next week but want to have it livestreamed by NEAT. Looking at week of the 28th; when is Houden Hall available? 7:00pm when Matt Sharpe and NEAT TV can do it, trying to do a recorded session/livestream/in person.
 - Matt will update on grants that are newly available for home energy improvements.
 - Then a workshop on do-it-yourself home air filter system and one person will be selected to receive the DIY built filter.
 - Matt needs BEC to organize and advertise the workshop. FPF copy for rolling notices, penciled in for week of the 28th. Try for Wednesday 10/30/24.
- xi. Bristol Energy Storage Facility Site
- Missed the tour but will try to get one organized for BEC for next spring 2025.

ADJOURNED 8:40pm ET

Next regularly scheduled meeting: November 20, 2024