

## **Bristol Energy Committee**

January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

**7:00pm by Zoom ONLY**

Attendees: Richard Butz (BEC), Allison Pouliot (BEC), Jim Quaglino (Member of the Public), Dan Batten (Member of the Public), Sally Burrell (BEC), Ben Skolozdra (BEC)

i. Richard made a motion to appoint Ben as chair, Allison seconded. Motion carries 3-0.

ii. Citizen Comments/Concerns

Dan is here and wants to hear about what BEC is working on and what things are going on in town at the local level. Dan moved to Bristol in 2018, lives in Bristol Co-Housing, and is a big believer in environmental stewardship and wants to make sure Co-Housing is more represented on local committees. Has some connections to other energy/climate activist organizations and is here to listen to our meeting.

iii. Approve Agenda

Additions noted above and below under “Other Business”

iv. Approve December Meeting Minutes

Approved as written 3-0

v. Update on EV Charger

For zoning, Jim Q. pointed out that the owner of the property where the EV charger will be installed is responsible for zoning permitting. BEC understands that there is no formal zoning designation for EV charging and that the Selectboard is working on an interim zoning ordinance to permit this construction.

Something else to consider: directing traffic to Main Street from the EV charging station location: Pomerlau owns the alleyway between the Wells property which will have the charger. This landowner should be engaged to discuss potential “beautification” projects to help encourage traffic to main street. Richard will reach out to Ian, in his capacity as interim Town Administrator, to discuss how BEC can be inertia to get the right people talking about how to take next steps in making this happen, discuss potential scope, etc.

vi. Update on MERP Grant Responsibilities and Next Steps

Allison is on Basecamp and has been following the progress of the project; it has been somewhat slow in December/January, which is typical for this time of year. Current status as Allison understands is that the scope of work to get the work done has been drafted and will be sent to 4 contractors. Next step is a pre-bid conference based on the scope of work to collaborate with the experts who would be doing the work. Ian will send scope to the four contracts but unclear if that has happened and when next steps will happen.

Important to note that while BEC isn't empowered to necessarily make decisions or do anything directly, we should maintain a sense of urgency because we don't want the project to get stuck before it can get underway. Many other towns will be competing for the attention and time of contractors to do this type of work so the sooner Bristol can get moving, the better. There is 2 years to spend the full grant money so it's important for us to be the momentum to keep this project moving so we don't run out of time. It's a slow time of year so expect to hear more at the next BEC meeting.

vii. BEC Recruitment

Looking for two new members, Ben will post on FPF. Allison pointed out that through BEC, VECAN is accessible to members with free webinars on different topics around energy consumption, land use, water quality, etc. Ben to reach out to Allison for specific language to incorporate into a recruiting post for FPF.

Other things we do that can help recruit other members via community outreach: Harvest festival, EV vehicle demonstration day, VEEP Event at Howden Hall, Farmer's Market table for Button Up Campaign; re-engaging the community in ways that are more visible is also part of what makes things interesting.

viii. Other Business

- a. Jumping back to EV charger: pay rate structure? Refer to Richard's email of article for some good discussion about different payment structures. Unclear if Selectboard has discussed this item yet or not.
- b. Ben to send by-laws to Selectboard, Richard provided the most recent version with comments included from BEC, members of the public, and the Selectboard.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: February 19, 2025