

Bristol Energy Committee

March 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

7:00pm by Zoom

Attendees: Richard Butz (BEC), Allison Pouliot (BEC), Jim Quaglino (Member of the Public), Sally Burrell (BEC), Dan Batten (Member of the Public), David Flaschenriem (BEC), Ben Skolozdra (BEC), Adaylah Lee (CEAC, Member of the Public), Jolyon Larson (ACRPC)

- i. Citizen Comments/Concerns
 - a. Dan B. informed the committee that he has submitted an application for appointment to the BEC; he will go before the Selectboard on Monday 25 March.
 - b. Jim Q. informed the committee that there is a draft EV charger zoning regulation that was presented to the Planning Commission last night. It should come before the Selectboard soon.
- ii. Approve Agenda
 - a. No changes
- iii. Approve February Meeting Minutes
 - a. Richard motion, Ben second, and approved
- iv. ACRPC Energy Planner Introduction: Jolyon Larson
 - a. Jolyon is a new ACRPC team member. Excited to work with Bristol on the MERP implementation program. Try to schedule a walk-through with Jolyon to see the Bristol MERP buildings. There is a meeting on Thursday 27 March from 10am-11:30am so David and Allison can show Joylon around beforehand, approximately 9am.
 - b. Hearing good things about potential for funding for the enhanced energy plan process (noted below). Trying to get municipalities together (in a network topology) to coordinate an enhanced energy plan for each of the member towns.
- v. Town Energy Plan Update Grant Opportunity (ACRPC)
 - a. Last energy plan for Bristol was 2019. Ian has already signed interest letter from ACRPC.
 - b. As it moves forwards, from a conceptual perspective, funding is a crucial element but should be coming (hopefully).
 - c. Jolyon wants to know what our committee priorities are, hosting a community engagement event to get public feedback.
 - d. Jolyon writes a first draft, there is a revision period, then back to ACRPC for approval and implementation.
 - e. Trying to minimize effort required from municipality to get a new enhanced energy plan. Expecting and hoping for collaboration between municipalities and learning opportunities.
 - f. No match required. Expecting 75 hours or so for Jolyon, a couple community engagement events, funding for ACRPC bookkeeping, and funding for oversight via director of ACRPC.

- g. Other interested towns: Middlebury, Vergennes (lead), Ripton, Monkton, and New Haven (6 communities which gets us up above the threshold required). Other towns are considering it up to 11. Somewhere between 6 and 11.
- vi. CEAC Energy Navigators Introduction: Adayliah Ley
 - a. Energy Navigators launched about a year ago.
 - b. Energy Navigators program is energy consultation guidance for all homeowners and renters in the county.
 - c. Follow-ups on recommendations including finance goals.
 - d. Basement and attics, look for air sealing options, and review utility bills. Also write an initial report with findings, goals, and further information for next steps
 - e. 50+ navigations since launching in April 2024
 - f. 2-3 community events/month (libraries, town halls, etc.)
 - g. 50% low-mod incoming residents reached.
 - h. Leicester Recycling drop-off, Goshen Lunch & Learn, Addison County Energy Fair, election day postings, tax bill mailing, food shelf distribution, Weybridge house party, etc.
 - i. energynavigators.org is the website, great resource for info and actions
 - j. The ask: help coordinate a VEEP Series Presentation in Bristol.
 - k. Question from Richard: is it only residential? yes for now (they want to expand). Richard has experience talking to the local businesses (Shaw's, Walgreens, etc.) because these buildings use a lot of heat and have no incentive to do it any other way.
 - l. Question from Sally: what's been the best venue for an event? answer: it depends on the municipality, they have lots of experience with different types of events (for example, a festival may not be the best idea).
 - m. Richard suggesting some type of door prize to motivate people to get in the door. CEAC has some resources for that approach (a raffle for example).
 - n. CEAC workshop makes sense. Adayliah is an AmeriCorps whose service ends August 8. Currently there is availability in June (18, 21) and July (16, 19, 23, 26, etc.). These dates are for what VEEP has available currently but they can do a program independently from VEEP but wouldn't be as long and detailed.
- vii. Update on EV Chargers
 - a. No real update, Ben to follow-up with Ian and Norwich EV.
 - b. As noted above, a zoning regulation is making it's way to the Selectboard for consideration and approval for the EV charger.
- viii. Update on MERP Grant Responsibilites and Next Steps
 - a. There is a meetign next Thursday with Deconstruction Works, at Holly Hall. This will be a good chance to check in with the project and understand where things stand.
 - b. Joylon will meet with David and Allison before that meeting to see Holly Hall and learn more about the MERP-eligible buildings in Bristol.
- ix. Addison County Energy Navigators

- a. Allison knows ACEN director, spoke at the Energy Fair last year. They do training to get other people involved in energy navigators. Allison intends to go through the training at some point.
 - b. ACEN director has an intern working for her. Trying to get interest in the area about what is available and what CEAC and the energy navigator program is and how it works.
 - c. Could we have an event like we did with Matt? Maybe start with an introductory meeting.
 - d. Sally reminding us that CEAC and the Navigator project reached out to BEC and we agreed to try to partner with the town for a MERP mini-grant funding. That ended up not happening but it was something BEC wanted to collaborate on.
- x. Bristol CORE Volunteer Fair – April 16
- a. Volunteer Fair is happening at Holly Hall, sponsored by CORE, on April 16 from 4pm-7pm. The Town will have a table and volunteer application forms so this should be a good opportunity to talk to folks about the Energy Committee.
- xi. Other Business/Future topics for next meeting(s)
- a. Discuss Energy Navigators Workshop. What date do we think works? June 18 is an energy committee meeting date. Band is performing at that time of year. Howden Hall, Richard can reach out about scheduling the date. Ben to confirm length of event and how it's structured (ask for an outline or something).
 - b. There is an EV grant award for level 2 chargers. Richard to check in with Ian on where that is, to see if the ARPA money was still out there for our use.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: April 16, 2025