

Bristol Energy Committee

July 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

7:00pm by Zoom

Attendees: Ben Skolozdra (BEC), David Flaschenriem (BEC), Allison Pouliot (BEC), Richard Butz (BEC), Jolyon Larson (member of the public/ACRPC), Sally Burrell (BEC), Dan Batten (BEC), Jim Quaglino (member of the public)

- i. Citizen Comments/Concerns
 - a. None
- ii. Approve Agenda
 - a. Addition of Efficiency Vermont topic (item x. below)
- iii. Approve May Meeting Minutes
 - a. Unanimously approved
- iv. CEAC Energy Navigators/VEEP Event Wrap-Up
 - a. Decent attendance, thankful to Adayliah and Janet for putting it on.
 - b. Thanks for all BEC members who came to help set up and break down!
 - c. Ben to follow-up with Janet on future events (better scheduling next time to not conflict with band and chicken BBQ)
 - d. Jolyon mentioned he enjoyed the event.
- v. Town Energy Plan Grant (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, EECBG)
 - a. According to Jolyon, the grant was awarded and we learned in late June that the Department of Energy (DOE) is funding it!
 - b. Next step: Vergennes and ACRPC negotiate to have Jolyon administer the project.
 - c. Kick-off meeting. Jolyon has a web-based platform to indicate availability, targeting September to avoid summer vacations.
 - d. Jolyon has created a municipality survey to fill out and distribute as widely as possible. Target audience is anyone within Bristol who has thoughts about what should be in our enhanced energy plan. Ben to forward to BEC.
 - e. Focus on survey, kick-off meeting will be handled by Jolyon.
 - f. New enhanced energy plan requirements may vary between municipalities.
 - g. Send out to anyone in Bristol.
 - h. Pushing kick-off meeting into September, not concerned during August. Jolyon to change dates in When2Meet app and re-engage. Wait and see for that.
 - i. Ben to post survey to Front Porch Forum in the next week or so.

- vi. Update on EV Chargers
 - a. Norwich email thread has been quiet. They did ask about land ownership for the final agreement which was clarified by Ian. Length of time the charger will be at the site is a point of discussion (5 years is the agreement right now which the Town is compensating the land owner for but not longer than that).
 - b. Ben to continue to follow-up.
- vii. Update on MERP
 - a. Has the Town met with VIA now that the design agreement was established?
 - a.i. Unclear if a formal kick-off has happened.
 - a.ii. David and Allison to reach out to Ian and see where things stand.
 - a.iii. Within the agreement there is a schedule, this includes a kick-off meeting that was supposed to be in June. Unclear if it happened.
 - a.iv. New Town Administrator should start soon, hopefully this can move forward.
 - a.v. Get a date for kick-off meeting.
 - a.vi. Vermont Division of Historical Preservation impacts to Holly Hall updates; project review form was put in by ACRPC. Still being reviewed, likely will have some additional questions but that will be part of the scope negotiations after the review is complete.
- viii. Addison County Energy Fair
 - a. Cheryl Brinkman gave Jolyon a list of things that might be helpful for “co-hosting”/”co-sponsoring”
 - a.i. Vendor agreements. Any other Bristol vendors? Ben to send to AllEarth Renewables.
 - a.ii. Distribute fliers? We can do that. Cheryl wanted some big ones but I’m not sure where we can put those up.
 - a.ii.1. David says Rockdale Gardens can be where Jolyon can drop off the fliers.
 - a.iii. Raffle prizes? Even just a gift card? (Sally can give a massage gift cert!) (Dan to reach out to Middlebury Co-Op). Jolyon to get back to us on how to facilitate the raffle prizes, bring day of or get to Jolyon sooner?
 - a.iv. Any food vendors in Bristol would want to be there? How about La Chapina? Holy Halvah? Daniel Lyons? Ben to connect them with Jolyon.
 - a.v. For BEC, we could present ideas on how we are modernizing Holly Hall. Walk to shop trolley and Button Up materials too.

- a.vi. Put fliers at Bristol Farmer's Market table!
- ix. BEC Logo Design
 - a. No update but it might be a good idea to get stuck back into it before the Addison County Energy Fair.
 - b. 802 Print or Honeylights for small order screen printing of T-shirts or buttons/pins? Allison to inquire at Honeylights about how far out they are scheduling the screen printing.
- x. Efficiency Vermont Program Updates
 - a. Refer to program updates from Bekah, forwarded by Richard. Highlights include updated income limits for bonus rebates and sunset of heat pump water heater rebates (income-eligible)
 - b. Efficiency VT also looking for feedback on 2024 program.
 - b.i. For example, seems like they are behind schedule relative to previous programs. Seems like things are more passive than they were pre-COVID. Window dressers seems to have fallen off.
 - b.ii. It's hard to get the public engaged. BEC has pivoted to municipal buildings.
- xi. Other Business
 - a. Jolyon: look out for an invite from VECAN, they are restarting their big November get-together with all energy committees. Before November, there will be a regional meet-up with VECAN where they want to solicit feedback from individual committees for resource sharing. Looking at August 26 for regional event. Try to get as many people there as possible from BEC at ACRPC office. Probably going to be in the evening after business hours.
 - b. Richard ran into Gary Smith (member of public at last meeting) who had an idea about beautifying the pathway for the EV charging station: how about Pollinator Pathway? Richard can reach out to start the conversation. Maybe Rockydale could be involved too?
 - b.i. Jim reminded that Pomerlau owns the property and should be involved, and they are usually open to collaborating with the local community in Bristol.
 - b.ii. David and Richard can meet out there to look at it, walk through just to kick some ideas around. Dan can go too, he lives just near by. They will coordinate via email.
 - b.iii. Beautifying effort could be something part of the Enhanced Energy Plan! Put it in the survey.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: August 20, 2025