

Bristol Energy Committee

September 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

7:00pm by Zoom

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

- i. Citizen Comments/Concerns
 - a. None
- ii. Approve Agenda
 - a. Added two items, Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund and AER Facility Tour.
- iii. Approve August Meeting Minutes
 - a. Unanimous approval
- iv. Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund
 - a. RFP have opened up from Center for Rural Development, grant application for \$500-\$4000. Richard thinks we might be able to use this for pollinator pathway project between Shaw's/Wallgreens.
 - a.i. Richard sent the link for us all to look at. Seems like a good fit for that project. There is uncertainty around L3 chargers but still a good idea to go for it.
 - a.ii. Might be challenging to work with Pomerlau if they are far away but need to consider it. Who would maintain a pollinator pathway in that area? Something to consider. Volunteers? Co-Housing or Bristol CORE involvement?
 - a.iii. Richard will reach out to Fran with Pollinator Pathways and would walk it with Richard, David, Dan, etc. Fran could tell us what we would need to propose on the grant application.
 - a.iv. Pomerlau would be hard to figure out. Debbie New from New Haven may know how to get into contact with them. Ian Albinson may have a contact too from the past discussions around EV chargers and general Selectboard business.
- v. All Earth Renewables Facility Tour
 - a. Jim Cossart said he would be willing to show BEC around on a weekend.
 - b. Keep on agenda for October, plan to pick a weekend in November that works for the majority of the BEC.
- vi. Efficiency Vermont Button Up Campaign
 - a. Energy Wednesdays meetings are on-going. Allison will write up a FPF post with info on the Button Up campaign and related events.
 - b. In general, we want to have more going on at the Farmer's Market tent next year (agree), such as MERP progress or other visuals.
- vii. Addison County Energy Fair

- a. Allison, Sally, and David were there, Richard also came by. Turnout was low due to the bad weather (lots of rain)
 - b. Had a few people come and get the download on what the BEC does (always good!)
 - c. Directed people to Efficiency Vermont tent which was hopefully a good outcome for folks.
 - d. Richard spoke to Dwight from Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, CVOEO, about weatherization. Dwight interested in inviting us and other Addison county energy committees to an hour long meeting or so for him to bring people up to date on the weatherization programs. Richard has contact information.
 - e. Great networking opportunity!
- viii. Addison County Energy Committees Meeting
- a. Richard/Allison/Sally attended. Each committee talked about the work they do, projects we're working on, etc.
 - b. It's good to have that meeting because it's an info sharing session. Middlebury Energy Committee is making great progress and has some good ideas for how to analyze the Town's current energy usage, such as town-owned vehicles or the future of the new municipal public works building.
 - c. Talked about having an open house once Holly Hall MERP is finished
- ix. Town Energy Plan Grant (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, EECBG)
- a. No updates but Ben to follow-up with Jolyon. Reminder to fill out the survey that was sent out earlier in the summer.
- x. Update on EV Chargers
- a. L3 project is slowing down. Not much we can do other than talk to Norwich since the project is through them. Richard will reach out.
 - b. L2 charger project might be back on. Maddy from GMP reached out to Richard about if we still wanted to do the L2 charger project. We were awarded \$20k for the overall \$40k project. Maddy willing to help us look for more funding. Ian from Selectboard jumped in to help by responding to Maddy.
 - b.i. Biggest issue is location. Corner of the green was near the Holly Hall crossing but the NE corner was also considered. There is some resistance to putting it around the green.
 - b.ii. North side of the park gets full, rarely any parking spots during a normal week day. Front side has more parking available. BEC is committed to getting them near the green.
 - b.iii. If location is the hurdle, that seems like one that can be crossed.
 - b.iv. Can Bristol CORE ask businesses to consider the potential benefit of EV chargers on the green? Ben to talk to Courtney with CORE.
- xi. Update on MERP
- a. Reach out to Ian to get access to Basecamp if desired.
 - b. There was a progress meeting wherein VIA showed a couple of Holly Hall drawings, discussed the wall assembly, etc.

- c. The MERP report says there should be some thermal analysis of the wall to avoid overinsulating and creating condensation. David suggested a few firms he knows of in the Massachusetts area that do this type of analysis work. There has been some pushback on this task from the design team.
 - c.i. David thinks it could be a cost implication for the design and that's why VIA is reluctant to gather this data to inform their design.
- d. There has been a mechanical basis of design issued; it's not a drawing but it is a write-up summary of the proposed approach. There is also one for the library (but not part of MERP).
- e. There is a grant that Freeda found that is connected to historic preservation. Potential to remove windows from MERP project and see if the matching grant (up to \$40k) could cover this scope for Holly Hall.
- f. Big questions still remain. 6 months away from starting construction but there is a gap between the grant funding and the cost proposal for the work.
- g. There may be the town capital fund to make up the shortfall but it is unclear how much more cuts and pullbacks may be coming, including to the MERP grant itself.

xii. Other Business

- a. None

Next regularly scheduled meeting: October 15, 2025