

Bristol Energy Committee

November 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

7:00pm by Zoom

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

- i. Citizen Comments/Concerns
 - a. None
- ii. Approve Agenda
 - a. No added items.
- iii. Approve September & October Meeting Minutes
 - a. Unanimous approval
- iv. Update on MERP
 - a. Currently working with Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA). VIA is working with Silver Maple Construction to be the Construction Manager (CM) for the project.
 - b. Silver Maple is putting together a quote for CM services. CM would handle all construction, they may do the work internally or may subcontract different scopes. It will depend.
 - c. Will compare the Silver Maple quote against available budget (understand we have less funding than the full project scope) plus potential money from Town capital funds.
 - d. Silver Maple is working with Dubois & King (D&K) and VIA to organize it. Silver Maple had some concerns about constructability of certain elements of the design. Certain equipment may not fit where D&K and VIA had originally planned.
 - e. Selectboard is confident with Silver Maple and believes they will do a quality job if the pricing comes back within reason.
 - f. Thoughts are that the library will proceed as designed but Holly Hall is the one that may change from constructability and schedule.
 - g. Seems like Silver Maple is interested in getting on board. Silver Maple will present alternatives to save cost and make it more constructable.
 - h. Some Selectboard members expressed interest in phasing the construction but it seems hard to do and won't get Bristol what it wants from this effort. This is the best chance to do as much work as possible.
 - i. Schedule for quotes is to be received in a month.
 - j. All alternatives will be considered but the best chance to get this completely done is now.
 - k. Ian has been updating the selectboard during round table discussions. When Silver Maple quotes are received, it would become a much larger discussion with more interested parties across the town and for final decision making on next steps.
 - l. Covering the balance (\$571k minus \$325k of grant funds) would almost completely use up the building fund. Not ideal but there is a lot of deferred maintenance at Holly

Hall and it's a vital and important building. Also there could be money to move around from the Library if that comes in a little cheaper than expected but shouldn't necessarily expect this.

- m. Silver Maple is working with other towns on this type of project so they understand the budget crunch.
- n. How is reporting done for the grant? Freeda is handling it directly and knows the cadence for when reports need to be provided.
- v. CEAC/Addison County Energy Navigators Discussion
 - a. Send targeted questions to Mike Roy with CEAC about funding strategy, how to move forward with asking for signatures, overlap with Efficiency Vermont, etc.
 - b. It's already a time crunch now to get something on the ballot by January.
 - c. Seems like our group has less enthusiasm to champion this fully. If we don't buy in, should we let it go for now?
 - d. Sally making a good point about lack of available contractors to do the work that Addison County Energy Navigators would suggest anyways.
 - e. David reminding the team about the community event that was held in winter 2024 with Matt Sharpe to talk about Efficiency Vermont rebates that are available.
 - f. There is a clear need to get more out of Efficiency Vermont but that is a task a bit too large for the BEC.
 - g. Can we go the Selectboard for funding instead of as an appropriation?
 - g.i. Seems like there is no way around the signed petition requirement
 - g.ii. Is there a way to itemize the work BEC has done over the years to justify asking the Selectboard investing in CEAC on our behalf?
 - h. Deadline for a petition is January 15. Seems like the signature gathering is not on an achievable timeline so we could gather signatures in 2026 for town meeting in 2027, for example.
 - i. Ben will email some clarifying questions to Mike Roy and we can discuss in December. Also need to clarify if the money the Town would invest in CEAC would be used for Bristol residents, or how that can be quantified/defined so taxpayers in Bristol know where this money is going.
- vi. VECAN Conference – Tool Ship
 - a. Entire committee is on-board with trying to find out more about how to build one for Bristol. Can we park it at the library for checking out similar to the apple cider press? Once we have a better idea of size, maintenance requirements, etc. we can approach the Library.
 - b. Dan and Ben will champion this, find out next steps, pricing, etc. Then we can update in December with how to move it forward, when to approach the library for potential community location, etc.
- vii. AllEarth Renewables Site Visit
 - a. Schedule mix-up last Saturday 11/14 so it didn't happen. We will get back to it in 2026.

viii. Update on EV Chargers – Level 2 & Level 3

- a. Level 3 project: According to Norwich EV, the sunseting of federal tax credits has become a big issue. The project deadline of June 2026 seems unlikely. Norwich is still looking for more grant funding to make up the shortfall. Ian talked to Zach at GMP and asked if we could move to a new vendor (not Norwich). If so, we'd have to ask Norwich to release the grant and then we would have to find another vendor.
 - a.i. There has been some disappointments with Norwich (lack of zoning coordination, lack of general communication, and lack of plan to compensate the land owner). Zach mentioned that if Norwich can't do it, GMP might be able to assist Bristol with Level 3 charging in 2028. But by then, who knows what could change with the land ownership?
 - a.ii. We are kind of trapped between a rock and a hard place. The grant funding is there now so it would be a shame to lose it.
 - a.iii. Compensation for the property owner was not considered by Norwich EV, which seemed shortsighted. The town had planned to use ARPA funds for this. The ARPA funds are no longer available for this so we have no mechanism for compensating the land owner, but for now this is a second order issue.
 - a.iv. Could we ask Norwich to let the grant go so then we can move the zoning bylaw forward and figure out how to compensate the land owner? Seems like a risk if we can't find a new electrician firm. Finding a new electrician could be viable but BEC would need to step up to go for it.
- b. Level 2 project: we have a grant from GMP (not Zach, different group). This has been discussed at length for many years.
 - b.i. The money is there, we have a quote from Cummins Electric (much more favorable than Norwich's price for this scope). Grant covers almost all of it, but Town would have to kick in less than \$2k. Some on the Selectboard remain concerned about location (don't necessarily want it on the park).
 - b.ii. No real good option for another location. Most other locations require boring/asphalt digging. Big \$\$\$ (\$10k at least) to do underground work.
 - b.iii. Three phase not required (single phase is possible). Ian has walked the park with Recreation Department. Rec Dept is supportive generally. Looked at the last two spots by the playground, across from the church. Seems like a logical location, does not impact food trucks for events, etc.
 - b.iv. There is the issue of the 2015 Town policy that says something needs to be removed from the park before something can be added to the park. Ian has provided suggestions to the policy as an update for Selectboard to consider (categorize additions so that some may be simpler to achieve than other major public works). Would need public by-in: surveying, selectboard meeting, potential separate meeting entirely
 - b.v. We can discuss with Pomerlau but that adds another party to the project and would increase cost.
 - b.vi. Brief discussion about alternative locations along the green.
 - b.vii. Policy modification to categorize things on the green is the first step in this process.

ix. Other Business

a. None

Adjourned 8:35pm ET

Next regularly scheduled meeting: December 17, 2025