

## Bristol Energy Committee

December 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

7:00pm by Zoom

Attendees: David Flaschenriem (BEC), Richard Butz (BEC), Sally Burrell (BEC), Ben Skolozdra (BEC)

- i. Citizen Comments/Concerns
  - a. None
- ii. Approve Agenda
  - a. No changes
- iii. Approve November Meeting Minutes
  - a. Approved unanimously
- iv. Update on MERP
  - a. Nothing new from Silver Maple. Probably another month before the bid comes back.
- v. CEAC/Addison County Energy Navigators Update Discussion
  - a. Mike got back to us quickly.
  - b. One item we heard was that funding from Bristol would go into a general fund, not necessarily specific to Bristol.
  - c. Reviewing each answer from Mike.
    - c.i. It's clear how they are different from Efficiency Vermont. It's more personal and very hands on, with people in their homes. That's different from Efficiency Vermont, who operates at a state level and has fewer local resources. CEAC are also more familiar with Addison County specifically.
    - c.ii. They are collaborating with Efficiency Vermont because they kind of have to based on the subsidies and programs that are funded through it.
    - c.iii. CEAC can provide reporting on how much is being spent in Bristol, how many people they've connected with in Bristol, etc. In general, BEC is not against this idea, community funding in a larger place like Bristol could help other places that can't fund as much.
    - c.iv. Funding is TBD beyond early 2027 but they have options: state, private donors, grants, contributions from towns, etc.
  - d. We as a group agree to be prepared for 2027. What events and key times can we get some momentum to get signatures? Need to prepare the elevator pitch, be prepared to defend at Town Meeting, etc. Would we need signatures first to get it on the ballot and then it gets voted on at Town Meeting.
- vi. ToolShip Project Discussion
  - a. Consider which type of spaces in town could be the “hub” for something like this; Rec Department or Library?
  - b. Need to be careful to not burden Library or Rec. BEC would have to be responsible charge for this project. Richard suggests inviting Rec and Library to a learning session to talk about it, and see who has the most interest. Find a local champion.

- c. AllEarth Renewables would be a good group to reach out to about collaborating on this project.
  - d. Library may already lend out “things” like cross country skis and snow shoes. Include AER, Library, Rec Department, etc. in a brainstorming session once we know there is demonstrated interest in Bristol.
  - e. Good questions: how do we maintain future battery requirements, who funds the yearly subscription platform, etc. It would be ideal to grant fund it.
  - f. Need to keep in mind the community ownership part of it.
    - f.i. Could get the people who build it to be part of the moving of it, maintenance, etc.
  - g. BEC should conduct a survey: if we have this, would people use it? This would probably be a grant requirement to show need.
  - h. First demonstrate the need, then community workshop (library, rec department, allearth renewables), then look at grants or other funding.
    - h.i. Put out a survey monkey or equivalent on Front Porch Forum. Get people's feedback first.
    - h.ii. Could we borrow the Brandon ToolShip for a day in early spring as a demonstration? Consider for GreenUp Day.
  - i. Backend access system is proprietary.
  - j. Could the design be simplified to a non-solar option? Plug-in and always return it fully charged. Is this an optional design change? Seems possible but less “community” minded.
  - k. Has anyone had issues in Brandon with depleting a full battery and still needing to continue to use the equipment? Good question for ReBHS. Battery redundancy question. How long does it take to charge?
  - l. Perhaps the check-in procedure would be easier with a more robust towing capability. This would be different from the way it works in Brandon.
  - m. Next steps: ask Brandon for the photos from the flyer so we can integrate it into a community survey. Richard can get the survey set up.
- vii. Update on EV Chargers – Level 2 & Level 3
- a. No update on Level 2; need policy change about Town Green before we can take action on reaching out to community to gauge interest on the proposed locations for a level 2 charger.
  - b. Level 3 seems to be not happening, based on lack of grant funding.
- viii. End of Year Report
- a. Ben to write report before 12/25 and send to BEC. Get to Ian by 12/31.
- ix. Other Business
- a. None

Next regularly scheduled meeting: January 21, 2026