

Bristol Energy Committee

September 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes

7:00pm by Zoom

Attendees: Ben Skolozdra (BEC), Allison Pouliot (BEC), Dan Batten (BEC), David Flaschenriem (BEC)

1. Citizen Comments/Concerns
 - a. None
2. Changes or Additions to Agenda
 - a. None
3. Changes or Additions to August Meeting Minutes
 - a. None
4. Line of Sight - Town Administrator Monthly Newsletter
 - a. Ben will confirm next month that all BEC members are receiving this communication monthly.
 - b. Two asks: Section 3 question 1: ACRPC is gathering county-wide data for energy usage for private buildings. David wonders if there is something we can say about how that connects with what we're doing. Question 2 is thought provoking. What are we one failure away from? AER PPA locking in electricity rates and making the town more resilient to fluctuations in energy industry changes. More EV chargers and encouraging EV usage broadly. Consider resiliency in the face of changing climate. More integration with local renewables for a more local "micro grid" function. For the heating center example, seems less about who and who can get there and more about how does it stay on in times of energy fluctuations and severe weather. Battery resilience program via GMP.
 - c. First question: how to enforce VRBES when Bristol is growing and developing? Seems like a gap in enforcement. On the other hand, have a way to review what a contractor wants to do prior to construction because once something is installed, it's really too late to enforce. How is infrastructure developed and zoned in the town? Is the town open to development of renewable energy projects in general? Economic development: how does the Town encourage and streamline development of renewable energy projects (wind and solar).
 - d. Ben to distill this into a coherent bullet point list.
 - e. Include Energy Navigators funding into this, how we can get a baseline level of how much it costs to power and heat a home in Bristol. How does ACRPC get this data for their reporting? David to discuss with Jolyon.
 - f. Section 6: What is working?

- i. What would you change? L3 chargers. Mini MERP grant that was supposed to go to energy navigators. Get more guidance from the Town on what we could focus on to help the Town.
- ii. What is in your way? We don't know what resources are available to us. There is no summary document for how to run a committee and how it functions. Integrating more with the town and other committees.
- iii. Ben to summarize these answers and send out separate to committee. Note that Greg is requesting a response by end of September.

5. EV Chargers - Level 2

- a. Grant funding is moving forward.
- b. Ben to inquire about construction timing.

6. Bristol Community Solar

- a. Smashed panels will be replaced soon. ACORN to meet with Town Administrator to discuss how to prevent this going forward: security cameras, outreach at the high school, signage, etc. BEC to have a role in community outreach going forward.

7. Holly Hall & Library MERP Update

- a. Holly Hall has a temporary COI, the rec department is moving back into their office on 9/21.
- b. Small issue with an existing non-tempered window that goes down to the floor (upstairs) that now needs a guardrail. Looking for a mesh solution that will let light in but still be protective.
- c. Meeting tomorrow for HVAC controls. VT Department of BGS touring the building tomorrow at 1:45pm.
- d. Library generator concern with noise and operational exhaust during monthly exercise testing. Could we abandon the generator idea and instead go with a battery system? Issue with footprint and storage areas.
- e. Library remediation is on-going. Also discussion around hardwood flooring vs carpets. Seems like hardwood is the direction they are going.

8. Legislative & Community Updates

- a. VNRC Annual Celebration being held on 10/7/26 at 5:30pm
- b. Holly Hall open house would be a good idea.

9. Other Business

- a. Petitions for Energy Navigators funding
- b. Posters at Town Meeting for MERP project with before and after pictures highlighting what work was done.