

Bristol Energy Committee  
7/17/19 Meeting Notes

Present: Sally Burrell, Liston Freeman, Mike Corey, Stephen Taylor, Lance LaLiberte, Jon McCormick, Richard Butz

I. Call to Order: 7:10

II. Public Forum

None

III. Additions to the Agenda

- Summary of Thermal Efficiency Working Group (III.B below)
- Efficiency VT rebates (III.A below)
- Announcement: presentation by Extinction Rebellion, Monday, 7:00pm at the Common House, 13 North St., Bristol.

IV. Current Business

A. Efficiency Vermont has rolled out new rebates

- public is still in the dark about EVT and it's programs
- Richard will contact EVT to see if they have flyers that we can distribute via mailings (water bills?) or distributed to town businesses.

B. Thermal Efficiency Working Group was created by the Climate Action Caucus. John suggested that we support Richard Faesy's proposals regarding Residential Building Efficiency Standards (RBES). John was encouraged to keep us posted.

C. The Window Project will enable us to offer storm window inserts for 5 - 10 town houses at a reasonable cost, \$ 30 - \$ 50. This will be pilot project while we learn the process and gauge demand.

- Stephen presented two Front Porch Forum posts designed to introduce the project, seek participants, and lay out some parameters. (attached below) The committee asked Stephen to go ahead with the plan.
- Several committee members will join Stephen in learning the manufacturing process.

D. Anaerobic Digester

- The group that presented last meeting is seeking property to purchase and will present a feasibility study when they are ready.

E. Library Energy Audit

- Liston will contact the librarian to schedule a time when committee members can help him conduct an audit.

F. 5-Town Energy Committee update (attached below)

- John discussed Caleb's plan to submit legislation to post speed cameras on I-89
- Sally mentioned Richard Faesy's efforts to encourage MAUSD board to consider Performance Contracting and particularly Vergennes' positive experience saving tax payer money with efficiency measures. Sally has observed at meetings that the district is grappling with unification and many other issues and feels confident that Performance Contracting will be considered in future planning.
- Stephen used to head the *Energy Management Program* for the Superintendents Association and may be a good channel to the school board.
- BEC will continue to interact with the Five Towns group and will share our meeting notes with them.

V. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: moved, seconded and approved.

VI. Next Meeting: August 21 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall

RAB - 7/18/19

**DRAFT 7/17/2019**

**Proposed for release on Front Porch Forum**

**Pilot Insulating Window Project**, Bristol Energy Committee

Bristol's volunteer Energy Committee is soliciting town residents interested in outfitting their homes with custom fit, insulating window inserts. The inserts will be made of clear plastic stretched over a wooden frame. Foam edging ensures a tight fit and makes inserts easy to install in the winter and remove in the spring. This year we will have the ability to serve 5-10 homes; we anticipate expanding the program substantially in coming years.

These inserts have proven to be one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce winter energy consumption and improve comfort. The annual savings for a typical window have been estimated at around 15 gallons of #2 fuel oil per year. At a cost to the homeowner of about \$38 for an average size insert, the payback would be around one year at current oil prices! Properly cared for, the expected lifespan is 5-10 years.

Kits for the window inserts will be produced by 'WindowDressers' a grassroots, volunteer-run nonprofit organization that trains, supplies, and supports teams of community volunteers who conduct Community Workshops to build insulating window inserts for local residents.

To express interest in participating, or for more information, contact Stephen Taylor by email at [staylor61vt@gmavt.net](mailto:staylor61vt@gmavt.net).

**Followup email to residents expressing interest.**

Thank you for your interest in the Pilot Window Project. This year our project will be a learning opportunity for the energy committee and participants alike! We anticipate being able to serve only 5-10 homes this year. Here are some additional details about the process.

- We will conduct a brief phone interview with interested homeowners to assess feasibility and potential for energy savings. Generally, the inserts are cost effective on any single glazed window, even if it is accompanied by an exterior storm. However, not all windows can be treated, owing to trim details, shape, and other limitations.
- The cost of each insert will depend on the size, ranging from about \$30 for a ~20"x36" unit to about \$54 for a ~44"x68" unit (unpainted pine). White painted pine is available at a modest additional expense. Payment in full will be required in advance of ordering, sometime in late August or early September.
- A team of trained measurers from the energy committee will visit homes selected to participate in this year's limited pilot project. We will select and visit homes on the basis of feasibility potential for energy savings.
- In October, unassembled kits will be delivered to our companion participating town (Charlotte), where two work days will be organized for volunteers to assemble the inserts. Homeowners are welcome and encouraged to participate in one of the work days.
- For more information about the program, go to <https://windowdressers.org> and <https://energizevermont.org/the-window-project>

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Joint Addison County Five-Town Energy Committees

Starksboro Community Garden Area

Monday June 10, 2019

1. Attendees
  - a. Starksboro
    - i. Richard Faesy
    - ii. Jeff Dunham
    - iii. Phil Mosenthal

- b. Monkton
    - i. Jane Palmer
    - ii. Nate Palmer
  - c. Bristol
    - i. Mike Corey
    - ii. Sally Burrell
    - iii. John McCormick
    - iv. Jim Dumont
  - d. Guests
    - i. Robert Dostis, GMP
    - ii. Caleb Elder, House of Representative from Starksboro, Mt. Abe School Board members
2. Energy Committee Updates
- a. Starksboro
    - i. Worked on Town Energy Plan
    - ii. VW charging station grants (x 2)
    - iii. Backup power for Town Clerk's Office
      - 1. Tesla battery vs. propane backup generator research
      - 2. Select Board went with the propane generator based on its ability to run longer with a power outage
    - iv. Weatherization projects helping two low-income town residents in old homes
    - v. Energy audit arrangements for Robinson School
    - vi. Button-Up training and future campaign
    - vii. Benchmarking compilation and review of town buildings
    - viii. Advocating at Mt. Abe School Board for performance contracting
    - ix. Discussing mobile home support efforts to reduce energy
  - b. Monkton
    - i. Town Energy Plan work with Regional Planning Commission

- ii. Wood bank
  - iii. Energy Fund revolving loan fund with Vermont Gas proceeds (idea)
- c. Bristol
  - i. Eight committee members now
  - ii. Solar project with Green Lantern for municipality
  - iii. Library energy audit
  - iv. Student engagement
  - v. Enhanced energy plan
  - vi. Green Mountain UMS – digester
  - vii. EV charging station
  - viii. Kilo-bank, electric PV sharing
  - ix. Button Up Campaign
- d. New Haven
  - i. Maggie Eaton is interested in help developing their Energy Plan
- 3. Green Mountain Power Presentation
  - a. Robert Dostis, presenter
    - i. Legislative liaison
  - b. Reaching out to municipalities and thinking about the nexus between GMP and energy committees
  - c. GMP's priorities to deal with our climate crisis:
    - i. Mitigation
    - ii. Resiliency
  - d. Storm events will become increasingly larger and more frequent
    - i. GMP is hardening lines, more tree trimming, burying lines in preparation
  - e. GMP is encouraging more local renewable energy
  - f. Offers:
    - i. Backup Tesla batteries for backup during outages
    - ii. Electric vehicle and charging incentives
    - iii. Heat pump incentives on top of Efficiency Vermont's

1. No longer leasing
    - iv. Electric bicycle
    - v. Commercial and industrial (C&I) incentives
    - vi. New battery that also serves as the electric meter
  - g. 100% renewable by 2030 plans
    - i. Currently GMP is 60% renewable, 90% carbon-free (30% nuclear)
    - ii. 300MW of solar now
    - iii. 10MW of peak solar
    - iv. 60-70% of GMP's production on Saturday was PV-provided
    - v. Resiliency is producing power on-site
    - vi. Panton project is testing islanding
    - vii. Voltage balancing issues – PV production vs. demand
  - h. Offers
    - i. GMP app
      1. Report outages, look at energy use, pay bills, etc.
    - ii. Solar in constrained area can now be permitted if users pay into charge to upgrade the line
    - iii. Solar map on website tells you status of every line
      1. Green, yellow, orange, red
    - iv. Use Robert as a GMP resource and liaison if they can help
4. Legislation Update
  - a. Rep. Caleb Elder
  - b. Weatherization
    - i. \$0.02/gallon of fuel for low-income Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was extended
    - ii. \$4 million was found from Efficiency Vermont
    - iii. Set up all-fuels PUC docket to address weatherization funding
  - c. Transportation
    - i. \$1 million EV funding approved

- ii. John McCormick is new chair of Transportation Fund
  - d. Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI)
    - i. RGGI-like cap-and-dividend/penalty multi-state regional approach
    - ii. Led by Peter Wolk at ANR
    - iii. 11 states
    - iv. Community reinvestment and healthy communities
    - v. Carrot vs. stick approach
  - e. 2020 proposed bill Caleb will introduce
    - i. I-89 speeding and enforcement with fines directed to infrastructure
    - ii. Lower speeds save fuel
    - iii. Goal is to make roads safer
  - f. Discussion
    - i. The State of Vermont should consider addressing all of the state employees who drive to work every day (~26,000 employees)
    - ii. Provide carrots to ride-share, vanpool and EVs
    - iii. For example, there used to be a van going from Addison County over App. Gap to Montpelier every day that no longer exists
    - iv. David Blittersdorf's "Budd Car" self-driving train study was not funded
    - v. New fees on solar registration (\$100) are not looked at favorably and send the wrong message to the renewable energy sector; it feels like the rules are skewed against solar
    - vi. There was absence of any big energy bill
      - 1. We need something like the Green New Deal to elevate the issue in Vermont
      - 2. Sarah Copeland-Hanzas introduced a big bill that didn't float
      - 3. Big complicated bills don't survive; we may be more successful moving forward move smaller strategic pieces
- 5. Schools
  - a. The Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) group has made some good progress
    - i. September presentation planned

- ii. The Mt. Abe District staff (Joel Fitzgerald and Patrick Reen) have come around and now seem to see the benefits of addressing this issue and in building community support for the schools
- b. Mt. Abe School Board
  - i. There appear to be capacity issues at the District
    - 1. Some think that it might make more sense to pull out the facilities management issues and let the District focus on just educational efforts
  - ii. Merging the districts has created policy governance issues and resulted in disjointed communication
  - iii. Some think that there is an opening at the School Board and Administration now for energy
    - 1. Board seems to be more open and was receptive to Richard's presentation on performance contracting last week
  - iv. Participatory budgeting may help move us to a open forum and engagement of public input
    - 1. Will include students
    - 2. Will likely include more focus on environmental impact, which could benefit a focus on energy issues
  - v. Performance Contracting
    - 1. (Using future energy savings to pay for energy improvements up front, managed by a contractor who takes all the risk)
    - 2. Richard presented the Vergennes experience 7-minute video to the Board on May 28
    - 3. Caleb thinks that there is interest at the Board for this concept
    - 4. Mold-related issues are now taking Administration's time
    - 5. The Board could ask Patrick to explore carbon-neutral efforts, which are part of the policy governance rules
      - a. Board policies (on the ANESU website) do address environmental issues
    - 6. Caleb will ask to get performance contracting on a future agenda

## 6. Next Steps



- a. Caleb will request to get performance contracting (Mike Davey from EEI and Vergennes facilities manager) on a future School Board agenda
- b. Energy Committees should research the School Board policy that is relevant to energy issues in order to encourage energy action; remind the Board of their responsibilities
- c. Coordinate with the Vermont Superintendents Association (VSA)
- d. Aim to get performance contracting on the September School Board agenda along with the IAQ presentation
  - i. Try to get Christopher Ross (Addison Independent reporter) there to spin IAQ and performance contracting as positive next steps
- e. Think about how to bundle energy improvements into any future school bond efforts, while considering performance contracting as a potential strategy to help with funding
- f. Continue working with Patrick Reen to educate him on the importance of energy issues to help reduce our carbon footprint, provide cost savings and meet our energy goals.
- g. Think about a strategy for moving forward, possibly starting with a single school (Robinson School?) as a pilot case study, but make sure to consider equity issues, then pitch as part of a master plan for all schools
- h. Remind the Mt. Abe District of their January 2018 energy meeting promised next steps:
  - i. Energy benchmark all schools in the District (energy use in kBtu/square foot)
  - ii. Audit all schools