Bristol Energy Committee (BEC) – December 5, 2016

Present: Bob Donnis, Mike Corey, Brendan Gallivan, Sue Hawkins

Heating Assistance Program –

Bob gave a little background.

We have close to $200 in the account now.

There is one request for assistance – Mike put client in touch with CVOEO

CVOEO has a process for short term emergencies > client gets voucher from them in person, and brings it to service/fuel provider.

Should we follow up on cases or are we "done" once we've provided advice or assistance? Be sensitive to

HOPE - **Mike** suggests that they refer Bristol clients to BEC once they have exhausted options with HOPE.

Pastor Bill's concerns. We will need to revise documents before accepting them:

1. Integrity of system – there are repeat users; is it being abused by individuals?
    a. In discussion, we acknowledge the difficulty if we do not simply piggy-back on CVOEO and HOPE screening. We are not in position to screen the tougher cases (is client truthful? We do not have criteria and system for analyzing actual need, income and expenses). **Mike** will contact HOPE and CVOEO to understand more of their process, and see if they feel their criteria sometimes eliminates clients who have a true need. Such as, if someone has a reasonable income, but has high expenses because of disaster, illness, etc and therefore needs heat assistance, would they still be eligible for HOPE and CVOEO assistance? Assuming they feel their system accurately assesses need, we will offer aid to those who are HOPE and CVOEO eligible, but have exhausted the funds available to them. If their criteria may deny an applicant that has a true need, we will need to further develop a policy.
    b. Add a Conflict of Interest statement to MOU, so that BEC delegates have a standard to follow.
2. Would like to rework docs so that the process is spelled out in more detail. **Mike** will communicate with Pastor Bill to find out specific questions he has and what needs clarity. Particularly address the Ground Rules and the Application spreadsheet. [post-meeting note: Mike – please sketch it out, **Sue** will rewrite the documents if you wish]
3. Need to reach out to additional sources of funding.
    a. Our question to Pastor Bill – are Front Porch Forum and other churches a wide enough base? Businesses and other fund raising would be lots more work.

Motion by Sue, 2nd by Brendan: Bob Donnis (who is not a BEC member any longer) and Mike Corey will be our delegates for the Heating Assistance Program. Unanimous vote in favor.

Future of BEC

Matt and Wendy plan to retire from BEC; Bob has already retired. So that leaves Mike, Sue and Brendan. Though Brendan is also ready to move on, he is tentatively willing to help us transition to our next chapter.

Potential pools from which to recruit new members:

- Cross-pollinate with other town committees (selectboard, planning, zoning, conservation)
- School – teachers and HS student
- People in the energy business/expertise
- Retirees who have time to commit
- People who have recently done energy audits and, better, work done
    - [post-meeting note by Sue: Talents to seek: Facilitation, Administrative, Ideas – creativity, outreach – education, Engineering, Time]

Brendan will make list of past members so we can query them

Mike will explore Mt Abe possibilities

Sue will explore other town committees, post on Front Porch Forum.

Future meetings:

- Monday nights and 7 PM probably good
- Mike not here March 2nd week to May 1st Week
- Brendan's wife is on school board, so not available then