Bristol Energy Committee Meeting September 2023
9/20/2023, 7pm ET, Zoom & In-Person at Holly Hall
Attendees: Carl Engvall (BEC), Richard Butz (BEC), Ben Skolozdra (BEC via Zoom), Sally Burrell (BEC), Allison Pouliot (BEC), Jim Quaglino (member of the public via Zoom)

Citizens Comments/Concerns

- No comments

Approval of August 2023 Meeting Minutes

- Notes approved unanimously

Efficiency Vermont (received from Matt Sharpe)

- Updates on weatherization rebate levels; raised to a cap of 75% of project cost up to $4000 (or capped at $9500 rebate for moderate-low income households)
- Also, Towns are required to obtain an Energy Code certificate perior to issuing a CO (Certificate of Occupancy)
- Does BEC know if the Town is doing this? Question for Kris Perlee? Sally can look into this item. Sally to check to see if Kris can come to our next meeting in October.

Update on EV Chargers & MERP Application (Richard)

- No update on EV chargers. GMP pre-application was submitted. Not seeing any action right now but the window should be opening (4-6 week opening). GMP was swamped with applications so we continue to be in a "wait and see" posture.
- MERP Application was approved for level 2 assessments of all three of Bristol's building. AddCo Regional Planning team to contact Richard to find out next steps. We have approval to move forward.
- The Selectboard will need to weigh which buildings take the highest priority and schedule. What are the possibilities with the overal funding cap? ($500k)
- Highest energy users are definitely the Library and Holly Hall (based on utility bills)

Window Dressers 2023 VT (Allison)

- Sally and Allison are trying hard to get measurements. There is one person who is getting re-wraps in Bristol which will be constructed in the Charlotte build.
- Some of the contacts Allison/Sally had were from past years and were not totally itnerested in moving forward. Start fresh with recruitement for 2024 (~March or so).
- First build in VT is next week (Norwich & Arlington). 24 total builds in VT this year!

Fall Weatherization Workshop & VEEP Posters for Harvest Festival

- Richard will get posters printed out for the Harvest Festival
- Richard registered us with ButtonUp VT (VEEP) for the workshop in October 28 9a-1p (9-10 setup, 10-12 workshop, 12-1 breakdown)
- Plenty of handouts, stickers, hats, other swag to give out at Harvest Festival
- Advertise the workshop on Front Porch Forum
- VEEP will want a general head count in advance, potentially get people to sign up/indicate they want to come at the Harvest Festival

Electrical Vehicle Demo with GMP (Sally)

- Have not heard back from GMP, probably getting too late for it to happen in 2023. Potential for spring 2024 so we will shift focus to Harvest Festival and Fall Weatherization Event, then this item going into 2024.

Pursuing geothermal at Bristol Elementary (Carl)

- No update, Carl and Bristol Schools contact haven't connected yet.

Harvest Festival (23 September 2023)

- Two days from today!
- Sally & Carl will set up. Tent is at site #8, similar to 2022, along North Street. Richard can been there 9:30a-12p, Allison from 1p-2:30p, Sally 9a-10:30am & pack-up with Carl. Carl can do 2p-4p plus teardown. Ben can do 12p-1p with crossover to 1:30p or so with Allison.
- Do we have a white board or an easel for people to write on "Most helpful thing you've done in your life/home to reduce energy costs?" Richard will see if he can acquire one.

Empower VT (3 October 2023)

- 350VT project. Focus is on reducing fossil fuel consumption in the state. All tied into the Renewable Energy Standard coming into the focus of the Legislature. Care must be taken when considering biomass, renewable NG, hydro, etc. to offset the increase in Vermont's overall grid demand
- Strategy session is 3 October 2023, posters will be around town.
- 350VT website is a good resource

BEC Membership Update

- Long time BEC member Mike Corey suddenly and unexpectedly passed away on August 29, 2023. He was a valuable member of the committe whose depth of knowledge and passion for BEC's mission will be missed by all of us.

ADJOURNED 7:45pm ET

Next meeting: October 18, 2023, 7pm ET