Bristol Energy Committee Meeting December 2023
12/20/2023, 7pm ET, Zoom & In-Person at Holly Hall
Attendees: Richard Butz (BEC), Ben Skolozdra (BEC via Zoom), Sally Burrell (BEC via Zoom), Allison Pouliot (BEC via Zoom), David Flaschenriem (member of the public via Zoom), Jim Quaglino (member of the public)

Citizens Comments/Concerns

- None

Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes

- Approved unanimously

Update on EV Chargers

- Looking for other contractors who would be willing to give another bid (none so far)
- Richard has been working to get new bids via Drive Electric VT certified contractors list
- Selectboard thought it would be worthwhile to get a second bidder
- Discussion amongst the selectboard given the low cost that there may be a chance to avoid the bid process altogether. Richard is working with the Selectboard accordingly.

Update on MERP

- Today was the day that engineers/architects came to assess (3) of the buildings (Library, Houden Hall, Holly Hall]
- Blower door tests, detailed inspections of heating systems, IR camera scans of all spaces, lighting assessments
- DuBois & King will provide a report with recommendations and cost estimates
    - Reports expected first of the year
- Then it will beup the selectboard tro decide what they want to approve and proceed with, pending we have at least (2) Contractor bids based on the estimates D&K provides.
- VT Department of BGS reviews bids and by the end of 2024 must spend the cost of the upgrades (this is ultimately coming from ARPA funding so there are time limits)
- Sounds like there are several things that were found in each of the buildings.
- We have potentially $500k that can be awarded via ARPA funding
- Level 2 assessments qualify for additional funding opportunities
- The general apporach is to reduce or eliminate fossil fuels where possible such as using heat pumps or high efficiency wood pellet boilers
- According to Maddison Shropshire we are one of the earliest takers of MERP funding processes for Addison County (but not the first/test run).

Drive Electric VT

- We did not do an EV demo in autumn 2023
- We are planning to do it in the spring of 2024, typically through GMP who bring their own vehicles and includes outreach to citizens with EVs
- We will catch up with GMP next year later in winter

Update on Geothermal System for Bristol Schools

- Carl is not with us tonight so we will table this topic until next meeting.

January 20, 2024 Addison County Regional Energy Committees Meeting @ Holly Hall

- Working on an agenda for that meeting and some speakers to come by
- Do we have anything to suggest/bring up to contribute?
- Let Richard know if we have any ideas
- Big items could be summary of programs available that Energy Committees should be paying attention to
- New statewide enhanced energy plan to use as guide for other towns
- Sharing new targets for energy reductions across the state
    - Dashboards showing land area, income level, population are big factors in determining the percent of energy savings that the state is expecting from Addison County
    - Bristol's share would be around 10-11%
    - Middlebury with the highest, then Vergennes, then Bristol, then the smaller towns all around 4-5%
    - New solar arrays going up soon, how does that become part of the computation for Bristol?
- Instead of new technology, is there a topic to bring up with respect to overal lower usage/consumption more broadly?
    - Buy local as well!
- Some kind of county-wide notebook for all energy committees to access that acts as a living document for all to access with grants and programs to be aware of and take advantage of

Additional Items

- David F. has expressed interest in joining the BEC.
    - David is an architect who has an interest in affecting change and helping with carbon drawdown projects.
    - We would like to have David join; he should fill out an application online and talk to Valerie and then go before the Selectboard.

ADJOURNED 7:36pm ET

Next meeting: January 17, 2024, 7pm ET