Bristol Energy Committee Meeting June 2024
6/19/2024, 7pm ET, Zoom & In-Person at Holly Hall
Attendees: Carl Engvall (BEC In-person), Richard Butz (BEC in-person), Jim Quaglino (member of the public in-person), Ben Skolozdra (BEC in-person), David Flaschenriem (BEC in-person)

Citizens Comments/Concerns

- None, however Carl had received indication that a citizen was planning to attend the meeting to provide some feedback for the committee. Carl believes there may be a Zoom link issue preventing others from joining. Jim Quaglino also mentioned not having a Zoom meeting tonight. BEC will look into Zoom functionality to ensure we have an established host meeting going forward.

Approve Agenda

- Approved with one additional item to mention.
    - The library has received interior storm windows as part of a grant (New England Library Association). They will be delivered tomorrow.

Update on MERP

- MERP Level II Energy Assessment reports were delivered by DuBois & King/Salas O'Brien on the monrning of 19 June 2024. There is a dedicated report for Holly Hall, Lawrence Memorial Library, and Howden Hall.
- BEC has not had time to fully review and interpret the reports yet. David, Richard, and Ben to review each.
- It is somewhat unclear how and to what level funding is released to the municipalities for the proposed improvements at each location.
- There is a ceiling of $500k in funding but how much Bristol can get is not clear at this time.
- Contractor bids will be needed for each project; the Addison County Regional Planning Commission can handle a lot of that.
- Given that the projects in the MERP process are funded externally from the Town, how best can we quantify benefits to the town that are not factors in the ROI calculations in each report? For example, Bristol just today was using the fire station as a cooling center. With improved HVAC, Holly Hall could be cooling center; how is that intangible value factored into considerations for each project?
- How is escalation in utility costs (electrical, oil, gas) factored into ROI calculations in the reports?
- We can send questions to D&K/Salas O'Brien or to ACRPC for follow-up.
- Next steps include BEC review of each report, identifying which projects we think would be good for the town to proceed with, and present this to the Selectboard for their review and consideration. In the meantime, Richard will help facilitate a meeting with ACRPC and Bristol Selectboard member Ian Albinson to review the MERP report findings in parallel with BEC review(s).
- Richard will look into getting the reports publicly posted.
- BEC may need to call a meeting before the next scheduled meeting in July if time is of the essence in providing our reviews of each report to the Selectboard.

Update on EV Chargers

- No significant developments or updates. We are waiting on grant funding decision for the Level 3 charger infrastructure near Shaw's, adjacent to the old Mountain Green Building.
- There is Selectboard intertia in going for the Level 3 charger(s) because Level 2 charger(s) won't get much use, it is expected, from locals so when people travel to Bristol from farther away, it would be more useful to have Level 3.

Update on TENS (Thermal Energy Networks) for Bristol

- No significant updates. Sally is staying in touch with Middlebury's meetings on the subject.
- The TENS bill passed the state legislature this session (S.305).

Update on Geothermal System for Bristol Schools

- Carl provided the following assessment update:
    - For fiscal year 2023, BES used 30,477 BTUs/square foot/year. The high school used 10,685. The HS value seemed low to me, until I remembered that they've got the wood chip boiler going as well. The 30,477 for BES doesn't seem crazy high to me, it's lower than I thought it would be. Next step? Energy audit of the schools?
- Carl is considering next steps potentially to include an energy audit on volunteer time between himself and Matt Sharpe to investigate insulation and other building envelope considerations.
- The School Board would probably be the best entity to consult with going forward on an audit and any suggested improvements.

Discussion of Proposed Energy Committee By-Laws

- The history of these proposed by-laws is that a Middlebury Energy Committee member mentioned it in passing to BEC during discussion around Bristol's participation in CEAC.
- The Bristol Selectboard expressed support in BEC drafting by-laws for their review and adoption.
- The draft by-laws presented now at mostly from Middlebury's by-laws, updated by Richard for specific Bristol considerations.
- Ben expressed that it would be good to consider whether these by-laws are at odds with, or re-inforce, or better define, the existing mandate that the Bristol Selectboard has already establisihed for the Energy Committee. It seems that there is a broad mission statement for the BEC, and there is further expansion of that mission statement, within the Town Energy Plan. These by-laws are intended to further clarify, detail, codify, and define the specific functions and roles the BEC plays in the community and how we can help facilitate discussion in the town on energy-related matters.
    - In this way, the BEC's role can be clearly defined in the context of discussions such as the hypothetical construction of a new natural gas distribution pipeline within the boundary of the village.
- The BEC agreed that the by-laws as currently written are acceptable to send to the Selectboard for their review. BEC members would welcome the opportunity to discuss these by-laws at a future Selectboard meeting.

ADJOURNED 8:06pm ET

Next meeting: 17 July 2024, 7pm ET