Bristol Energy Committee

December 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

7:00pm by Zoom ONLY

Ben Skolozdra (BEC), David Flaschenriem (BEC), Carl Engvall (BEC), Jim Quaglino (Member of the Public), Sally Burrell (BEC), Allison Pouliot (BEC)

i. Citizen Comments/Concerns

- None

ii. Approve Agenda

- Approved with no additions

iii. Approve November Meeting Minutes

- Approved as written

iv. Update on EV Chargers – Grant Awarded!

- Received word from Ian that the grant was awarded to Bristol for a Level 3 DC Fast Charger, to be located behind Shaw's, in the parking lot along Mountain View St., adjacent to Co-Housing.

- If not already in place, should the Town look into other improvements in this area such as street lighting or signage? Can the State provide a standardized sign template for the EV charger and where would it be installed: Mountain St, Main St, North St, etc.? Ben to follow-up with Ian on this topic and how the BEC can continue to assist with moving this project forward.

v. Update on MERP Grant Responsibilites and Next Steps

- Grant agreement letter has been signed, ~$325k coming to the Town (short of the full grant amount by about $200k)

- David and Allison met with the architect to put together a scope of work for architect fee while Ian is working on trying to find a couple contractors to bid on the work. Expected to get the architect fee in January for scope redevelopment work and Design/Engineer of Record.

- The Town is using Basecamp to store all documents including meeting minutes. Next steps include getting the scope of work together for the contractors to price to do the work and see what's left to fund and how to fund it (Town CIP fund, for example).

- Next step after scope is developed is to potentially organize a pre-bid conference with the (at least) two identified contractors to review. Ian is workshopping a draft scope of work to get to Smith McClain and Silver Maple, and a potential for a third contractor that David will work with Ian on contacting.

- In general, what is BEC role vs the Town role going forward? Our focus should continue to be on pushing the Selectboard and Town on implementing funding and grants. We should continue to "agitate politely" to make sure the MERP project is on-going and the EV charger project continues to move but also acknowledge and make clear that BEC is not the final Owner of these projects and that we cannot make decisions about scope of work, funding, selecting contractors/designers, etc.

- David and Allison to meet with Ian after the first of the year in January. No architects or engineers or contractors, just David/Allison and Ian & Frida. Target first week of January, Allison to reach out.

vi. Update on By-Laws for Selectboard Approval

Ben to take this on for Richard.

vii. Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) Climate Economy Resilient Communities (https://www.vtrural.org/call-for-2025-climate-economy-resilient-communities/)

- Senator Bray sent this to Bristol to look at. Seems like the schedule is too aggressive for us (applications need to be in by January 7, 2025). Consider how we can use this in 2026 and into the future. Is there anything we can use this for the EV charger? Seems too soon and EV charger is too uncertain.

- Main things for this grant should result in carbon reduction or address needs of low income community memebrs or engage partners engaged with implementation of these types of projects. Seems mostly like help moving projects forward. Could this be useful for MERP? With the aggressive schedule for 2025 applications, it's something we should consider for 2026 and beyond when we have new projects or ideas to push forward.

viii. Bristol Energy Committee 2024 Annual Report

- Draft report sent out for comment, targetting to have it to Ian by end of December.

- Sally noted that most Town report sections include a financial impact analysis. Since BEC is an all-volunteer group and we receive no Town appropriations, it might be good to highlight how our work is entirely people-powered and free for the Town.

ix. Other Items

- Carl's term is up at the end of this year and he will be moving on from the BEC. We wish him well and thank him for all his hard work as a BEC member. Going into 2025, BEC will have 2 vacancies.

Next regularly scheduled meeting: January 15, 2025