

## BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

**Bennington Fire Dept Multi-Purpose Rm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 130 River St, Bennington**

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

### Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: **William Karis (Chair), Richard Dundas (Guest), Bruce Lee Clark (Member), Al Bashevkin (Member), Bruce Lierman (Member), Bill Christian (Member), Marsh Hudson-Knapp (Guest), Barbara True-Weber (Guest), Callie Fishburn (Guest)**

- Review minutes from Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting
  - Meeting commenced at 7:03. Minutes were reviewed. Corrections to minutes should state that Car Share VT has hybrid, not electric vehicles. The Executive Director of Car Share VT (Annie Bourdon) is willing to come to our meeting to speak. With these corrections, minutes are accepted.
- EV charging and EV car-share opportunity/ updates
  - Nothing to report at this point. Car Share VT has some sophisticated software for managing their program to administer car sharing. Bruce will look into how we can acquire a software system like theirs if we wanted to start a similar program in Bennington.
  - Callie (BCRP) and Madison (Shires) are working on an application for EV Chargers for Monument View Apartments in Bennington, Cora B Whitney apartments in Bennington, and Arlington Village for car charging programs. Grant is due by April 1. It is hoped that by making charging easier and more accessible, more will purchase electric vehicles.
  - There was a discussion about community sharing car programs. Are there zip car programs available that we can look into? Should we invite Annie Bourdon to a meeting? Bruce will look into this and see if she can come to our next meeting (April 6).
- Town Energy Coordinator – update & next steps
  - The Energy Committee did a presentation to Select Board a couple of weeks ago. As we processed the meeting, the group talked about how much work needs to be done to get our hopes accomplished. The Town is hoping that BCRC will take up some of the load of this work. A current bill in the legislature (H518) may supply more resources for BCRC to help build capacity on energy savings work for municipal properties and equipment. Comments about this hoped that H518 will impact town residents in a greater way. The municipal buildings and equipment are already working towards energy savings. Callie currently works with 6 communities on energy issues. It might be good to speak with other energy coordinators about how their positions are working, and there will be a meeting of Energy Committees on March 8 via zoom that Callie is hosting.
  - Someone needs to establish a baseline for energy outputs from town departments, so we can see what progress might be made. Bill Karis might be able to make this happen. He also pointed to Energy Atlas as a means to determine baseline, which Michael \_\_\_ is familiar with. For the Town, data in Town Energy Plan usage might be helpful. Bill Karis,

Bill Christian, and Michael can serve on the Committee to look into data about energy use so we can plan for the future.

- Defining a clear path and tasks for the position of energy coordinator is needed. Bill Karis, Bruce Lierman, and Dick Dundas can assist with helping to hone a job description.
- Should we go onto CAT TV and consider presentations about our need for an energy coordinator? Al Bashevkin, Bill Christian, and Bruce Lee-Clark will serve on a committee to consider a CAT TV show/series about the energy challenges we are facing.
- There will be a gathering of energy committees on March 8 convened by Callie Fishburn of BCRC. This meeting will be on Zoom.
- Action Items Matrix: Not discussed, but we will look at subcommittees that may address different items on the Matrix.
- Public comment
  - There was a request through the Select Board by a resident of Grandview St about a place to compost. Plans are afoot for a neighborhood compost storage area to occur some day at 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Church, but that is not in place yet. The question is how we spread this to other parts of the town. There is not clear information about composting rule enforcement. There was some discussion about this issue at the meeting, and the hopes that composting can become truly town wide, and possibly supported by the Town likely is beyond the experience of the Town Energy Committee.
  - Is Methane generation in landfills an issue that the Energy committee should consider?
  - As there's a discussion about whether composting is important for the Committee, Marsh has agreed to offer short updates about his project during our meetings.
- Meeting Adjourned at 8:27.