

Bennington Energy Committee

Dec 7, 2022

Bill Karis, Bill Christian, Mary Rogers, Chris Bates, Bruce Lee-Clark

Visitors: Sen Brian Campion, Peter Sterling of Renewable Energy Vermont

Accepted minutes from Nov 2020

Presentation from Peter Sterling: Vermont's renewable energy standard does not adequately promote growth of renewable energy for various reasons (meeting goals from out-of-state sources like Hydro Quebec and from old existing sources, using Renewable Energy Credits). Noted that approval of new hydro power is nearly impossible. Noted that approval of solar electric is a challenge, with Act 250 and the PUC. Noted that Vermont is 49th for in-state generation. Encouraged improving standards, in conjunction with other energy committees. Note that VELCO foresees doubling grid capacity, and dealing with a winter peak when renewables are low, which is challenging.

Discussed opposition to wind power in Vermont. Below are two links from Chris Bates on the subject.

<https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/politics/government/2017/10/12/lawmakers-vote-against-setbacks-wind-turbines/750662001/>

<https://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/story/news/local/vermont/2020/01/27/where-vermont-wind-projects-and-why-did-development-stop/4586494002/>

Discussed possible Earth Day event on 4/20. Possible awards.

Bikeable Bennington update : Chris Bates has found downtown merchants to be very receptive to bike locking facilities and is looking into grants.

Discussed setting up an information table at town meetings in 2023, with info on EVs, on-the-spot sign-up for energy audits, BROOC benefits, etc