

BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
JUNE 7, 2023

The June meeting of the Bennington Energy Committee was held in person at the Bennington Fire Department multi-purpose room. Committee members attending were Bill Karis, Bill Christian, Chris Bates, and Mary Rogers. Also attending were Marsh Hudson-Knapp and Karen Jernigan.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chair Bill Karis.

Mr. Bates made a motion to accept the Minutes of the May 3rd meeting as written. This was seconded by Mr. Christian and so voted.

Ms. Karen Jernigan introduced herself as Business Development Lead for Circuit, a company that provides EV micro transit circuits around municipalities. The model addresses the facts that over 70% of car travel is single occupant and over 50% of these trips are under 3 miles. The company provides their own EV's, hires, trains and insures local residents as drivers, and works with municipalities to set up fixed routes that are either free to riders or low fare. Riders may access a ride via an app or flag the vehicle as it passes fixed stops.

Ms. Jernigan will send Mr. Karis some case studies including Plymouth MA. Plymouth uses the service seasonally. Pilot trials can be arranged with a minimum of 4 month service. It takes 6 – 8 weeks to set up service. Costs can be shared with organizations or businesses for advertising rights.

Ms. Rogers reported that the Town now has access to \$4,000 through a MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) mini grant. Funds may be used for a variety of community outreach and educational activities. Committee members discussed the type of events that would yield the best draw for various target audiences. It was noted that handing out materials is the least effective way to garner tangible results. Potential ideas for future discussion included:

- A “how-to” booth partnering with Efficiency Vermont, BROCC, and realtors
- Seminars for realtors and landlords
- Partnering with BROCC and Neighborworks to target lower income demographics.
- Various types of demonstration events targeting homeowners able to take on immediate projects.
- Sponsor PSA's on CAT-TV
- Table some event at Octoberfest
- Invite community leaders (such as Jack Rossiter-Munley) to future meetings to focus on outreach

A motion to adjourn at 8:24 PM was made by Ms. Rogers and seconded by Mr. Bates. It was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Rogers