

Bradford Energy Committee
Monday April 18th, 2022, 6:30 pm

Virtual meeting – <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4739957902>

Present – Ed Wendell (Chair) Elizabeth Towle (Guest), Nancy Jones, Susanna Lewis, Tom McBride, Stu Ross

Draft Minutes, April 4, 2022

Minutes were accepted

Nancy Jones, IREC update – (reporting as liaison with our Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator, Geoff Martin)

Municipal Fuel-switching opportunity A House Bill, [H. 518](#) is moving through the legislature that would fund municipal fuel switching and weatherization. For Bradford, this could mean an opportunity to convert the Bradford Academy building from heating with oil to wood pellets. The conversion, according to the Energy Audit we are doing through IREC, would be beneficial but seemed unlikely to be considered due to cost. The audit will be available in about a week. Nancy suggested this would create a timely opportunity for alerting the Selectboard to funding opportunities for a wood pellet boiler conversion at the BA. Bradford would be competitive for such funds, being considered an under-served area, and because of its energy burden, and location outside Chittenden County. In addition, there may be matching ARPA fund money available as well for such a project. The Selectboard will be approached once the Energy Audit is in hand and viewed by BEC.

ARPA funds for home energy audits. Several other towns in the Intermunicipal consortium are intending to use ARPA funds for home energy audits. Geoff Martin will circulate details. Our committee can then evaluate whether this is something we also want to endorse for the Selectboard's consideration. Apart from this, Nancy has learned that the Selectboard will be establishing a committee of 5-7 people (none of whom expect to apply for ARPA money) to advise on how ARPA money might be spent. In addition, the Selectboard will be soliciting input from the community. This will be publicized soon and will augment the community responses the Selectboard obtained last October.

Energy-Related Zoning Bylaw Proposals. Geoff Martin created a comprehensive list of proposals that might be incorporated into the town's zoning by-laws, and Nancy previously forwarded this list to BEC members. The list (dated March 22) has items related to Transportation, Building Efficiency, Electricity, Waste and Land Use (including Forestry and Agriculture). This list has now been provided to Marcey Carver for use by the Planning Commission as it revises Zoning Regulations.

Innovative ideas about a Community Solar Array. Steve Bauer (a Senior Planner at TRORC who has been actively advising on the new Town Plan) suggested that a site, contained within the "5 and 25" parcel but North of the previously proposed (and denied) solar field, might be suited for a multi-family housing unit and an accompanying community solar array. This land is located between the park & Ride and the Napa Auto parts store and has the advantage of proximity to Phase 3 power. It is owned by BCDC (Bradford Community Development Corp). Ryan Chase, BCDC President, would like to put Athletic fields on the property. A discussion of how BEC might help foster a solar array included approaching the Hannaford's Manager (Craig St. Cyr), because the company has expressed the intention of being 100% renewable by 2025. As well, as Steve Bauer suggested, we would do well to be prepared to apply for

State money through our Congressional delegates (he has sent around a list of appropriate grants) when the opportunity comes around again.

Green Procurement MOU. Nancy had been asked where things stood with the Green Procurement MOU. Ed will again check with the Selectboard to find out whether Department Heads are sufficiently aware of the new Green Procurement policy. We have not yet received any submissions for our approval, although a procedure, on our end, is in place.

Window Dressers Update. (Susanna L.) The project has been stalled, awaiting a response about the availability of the Fire Hall for Nov. 17th to Nov 23rd. Subsequent to the BEC meeting, we have learned that the Fire Station Hall is going to be available from Nov 17-23.

Website Development. Tom McBride presented an outline for a proposed webpage. The main page would be similar in content to what is now on the Town Website and would be enriched by buttons providing information about our priorities, and informative links. The intention is to get something started as soon as possible, with Marcey Carver's assistance, and add buttons once there is content ready for display. Tom would like to see a website subcommittee established so that the development can proceed efficiently. Marcey will be sent the outline and will be invited to the next BEC meeting to see how much of this can be accomplished on the current platform.

Other:

EPA's Clean School Bus Program: Zero-Emission and Clean School Bus Rebates There is a webinar to be held April 27th (Nancy circulated information, the registration site is [here](#)).

IREC reports Nancy also mentioned that from now on she will routinely provide IREC reports to the Dan Perry (Selectboard Chair).

Elizabeth Towle suggested a 7:00 AM demonstration with a climate crisis message, similar to the ones that took place three years ago in the Fall. The purpose would be to educate, build comradery and raise awareness. It was suggested for this Friday to coincide with Earth Day, and Nancy and Susanna would be pleased to join. Elizabeth and Nancy agreed to post a notice on local listserves.

Next meeting: May 2nd 6:30