

Brandon Energy Committee (BEC) meeting notes

7-10-2023

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.

Committee members in attendance: Jim Emerson, Jack Scheider, Erin Ballentine, Eve Beglarian, Clare Schick

Community members attending: Mike Schick, David Martin, Jim Donnelly, Kathy Clark and Guest: Jeremy Gildrean from RRPC - 802-774-1349

Education Working Group Meeting section:

4:30: Discussed goals for 2023/2024 and how to spread the work load, how to foster ideas then move toward building a team to undertake a project to achieve the goal.

Button Up event planning will start with a meeting on July 17 at 4:30 at Jim's house, 4:30.

Special Meeting of the BEC

5:00. Call to order by Jim Emerson

Agenda adoption: A motion was made to adopt the agenda by Jack, and 2nd by Erin. The agenda was amended to include a specific time for public to comment at the start and to provide an update on all grants, expanding the item on the MERP grant update. Approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Eve motioned to approve the minutes, Jack seconded. Approved unanimously.

Public comment: An announcement that anyone attending could bring a concern to the committee either now or at any time during the meeting as all ideas, suggestions and concerns were valued. No comments at this time.

Reflection: On the question posed by Jim: What impact do we intend to have on Brandon this year?

Jack, educate select board

Eve, strive for more community involvement

Mike S., Educate and involve the board and work more with solar fest

Committee Reorganization: Members for committee positions 2023/24: Budget "tracker" Monitor, nominated Serge C. Nominations were: Secretary: Robert Black. Vice Chair, TBD at next meeting. Chair, Jim Emerson
Jack moved, Eve seconded. Approved unanimously.

Recent and Upcoming Events:

Parade: Jack provided update. Jim D suggested it was not clear bikes were electric, nor the puppets significance. It was suggested by Eve and Erin that next year we focus on Emily Davenport, and perhaps pull a model of the motor Tommy D developed. Brandon Bikes were well liked, but maybe could have handed out fliers so people might better know they could be checked out of the library.

Davenport: Jack indicated attendance was better than 2022, that it was great having electric bucket loader, good car selection.

Comments: bikes for library were not easy to see in the back, the info booth more up front might have been helpful, and that people did not know there was more in the back of the school.

SolarFest: Erin invited all to attend and suggested volunteers were needed.

Brandon Energy Community Picnic: Scheduled for August 12th at Estabrook Park. Organization help is needed as well as coordination with the planned bike rack painting and installation underway.

Button Up Events: Jim suggested we take up Clare and Mike's idea for a heat pump event, adding a solar training as well with the new federal Solar For All grant program. In addition, an event for Brandon businesses to cover these topics and the new tax incentives.

Budgetary Matters and Grants:

Jim reported that we spent under 90% of last years budget and that we need to make a concerted effort to plan our spending earlier in the year as well as developing our budget request to be well thought out and presented to make it easier to spend according to our stated intentions. Serge should help us keep on the straight and narrow with this with respect to our budget and our grant expenditures.

Our \$4,000 MERP grant is to be allocated to \$1,200 for library books and \$2,800 for educational promotional efforts which we need to plan for soon. Kathy Clark provided a lit of books she has identified to purchase for this project as well as

tier prices from the local book store. She will work on a protocol for signing out books and Jim will work with Robert on getting the bookshelf in the next two weeks.

Jim reviewed a list of a half dozen other grants we should be considering this year, including the solar REAP Grant, Electric Charger Grant, Climate Catalyst Fund, Electric Bus grants and others.

Project Focus for the Coming Year:

Jim referred to a hand out listing projects (Brandon Energy Community Goals and Projects for 2023/2024, attached) we are considering and/or committed to and asked that all think about what should be changed, added, or deleted. He asked each to consider which they can assist with to make happen and requested all submit ideas in the next two weeks.

Working Group Reports:

These were essentially covered in the above discussions.

Agreements and Next Meeting:

Quick Review for next meeting: review goals list that Jim handed out, Look at and think about possible dates, projects, and teams
all ideas and support is encouraged

Jeremy spoke briefly about Electric school buses, perhaps he will work with Jim and Jack regarding the information they have already compiled.

Also a quick discussion took place about bike lanes, sidewalks to Neshobe.

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6.

Recording secretary: Clare Schick