

BRANDON ENERGY COMMITTEE
4:30 PM Monday, Sept. 2, 2024 Meeting
At Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

Agendas are posted on the community bulletin boards located at the Town Office at 49 Center Street and the Junction Store & Deli at 2265 Forest Dale Road. The Energy Committee reserves the right to add additional items, if necessary, at the beginning of the meeting.

Attendees: David Martin, Jack Schneider, Jim Emerson, Jeff Haylon, Kathy Clark, Robert Black
Guest: Jeff Dardozzi

BEC MEETING AGENDA

4:30 Adopt agenda (amended as approved) and minutes (Unanimous approval, JE abstain)
Invitation for public comments None noted.

4:40 Reflection: *How can we assist people who are struggling financially with their energy improvement projects?*

DM presented a 3-fold flyer of “Energy Navigators” (Addison County) to make homes more energy efficient and lower utility bills.

Suggestion to invite reps from Climate Economy Action Center (CEAC) of Addison County to next meeting.

5:00 Updates on Upcoming Events and Ongoing Projects:

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) - Revolving Loan Fund specifically targeting energy improvement projects for town residents (application submitted) .

JS presented financing opportunities, including support to hire a “Navigator” (College Intern?) funded through the grant to manage and organize a program. VT Dept of Public Service Grant (no matching funds req'd) application due: Sept 23, would be submitted by Town Mgr. Also, presented ideas for Financing options for home improvements (8-yr. payback on self-financed improvements; 5-yr. payback on other).

Motion; Approve JS/DM to work with Town Mgr. to submit grant application by Sep 23. Unanimous approval.

MERP town building energy audits/summaries- David

MERP Implementation Grants 500k - application due 9-20 !!!

Review audits/summaries for items to recommend Approx. \$900K Total Est cost (incl. \$450K solar)

JH, RB,DM to sort options to include all “P” (Payback) items – less Solar, and minimize Brandon Highway Garage. Subteam to work with Town Mgr – DM to ask SH about incl this in next Select Board meeting (Mon 9/9).

Motion: Submit Grant request for MERP funds to upgrade 4 buildings to emphasize all “P” (Payback) items – less Solar, and minimize Brandon Highway Garage to include DM to act as agent to work with Town Mgr. to make final decision to proceed. Unanimous approval.

Button Up Event this fall for all residents/businesses/non-profits.

October 19, 26 or November 2 options for Efficiency VT, Heat Squad. DM to contact EffVt and HtSq to decide preferred date. \$350 for Education, part of \$300 maintenance for lawn equipmt...

.possible \$650 total budget. Marketing: Efficiency VT ads on VT Public, Reporter, etc. DM to check with Bill Moore about Town Hall availability for preferred date.

Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County - Navigator Project - David

<https://ceacac.org/2023/10/01/the-navigator-project/>

Discussed under "Reflection" above.

Toolship project status – DM and JD presented update.

Will be part of Library Open House, Sunday Sept 15, 2:00-5:00 PM

Outreach to Brandon Reporter, Sue Gage email list, other?

Bringing Solar for All project funds to Brandon (SolarFest) –

JS reported that Solarfest did not receive this round of grants.

Fall Repair Fair at town hall meeting room - October 20 date set.

Still looking for more Repair-experienced people...through Front Porch Forum...

RB to see Reporter Editor for a BEC Fall Feature Section in The Reporter to include several events under the BEC banner each week in Sept/Oct.

JE report on NOVUS...re: 15% discount for Green Lantern Energy...expand to Municipal needs energy to include \$20K upfront payment (Brandon Industrial Group).

Collaboration with OVUHS...need for HS student to serve on the BEC. Erin to report more in future.

Collaboration with SolarFest - Robert

RB, JS presented update of progress on 2.2 Mw array and 125 Kw Community solar project & permits. Many opportunities for BEC to work with Solarfest to promote Energy projects, seek grants and develop workforce training that could serve the Brandon community for jobs & energy.

Town Energy Report and distribution RRPC

JS report no feedback yet from RRPC.

Bike repair station - summer 2025 – Associated with ReBHS project...

DM reported approval of VT Arts Council \$15K grant for 9 borrowable "Art Bikes" ...include with Repair Fair in future.

5:55 Review agreements. Motion approved to adjourn.

Next meeting October 7th and good byes!

This meeting is available to attend via ZOOM: Meeting ID 87042220099

It will also be recorded

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Black/BEC Secretary