

Brandon Energy Committee
4:30 PM Monday, January 5th, 2025
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, Erin B, Joyous Emerson, Jeff Haylon, Robert Black

Guest: Jeff Dardozi, Bob West, Tim Guiles

BEC MEETING AGENDA

4:30 David Martin called meeting to order

Adopt agenda (approved as written)

Previous meeting minutes (approved as written)

Invitation for public comments...None noted...

Reflection: What could we do in 2025 to positively impact Brandon's Energy future?

JE discussed possible inputs on alternative energy options for two projects in Park Village.

Debbie New/VT Community Thermal Network, Jarod Rodriguez Community

Decarbonization (Massachusetts)

Group discussed possible goals: Energy Navigator program, Solicit more attendees at Energy Events (Button-Up etc).

RB suggested BEC contact principal owners at Park Village and old Tubbs Building (Ultravation) to explore joint energy conservation/alternative energy options. See continuing notes on Energy Navigator topic below.

Updates on Upcoming Events and Ongoing Projects:

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) - 50k, GRANT AWARDED!!!!

Discussion of Brandon **Energy Navigator** position – DM worked with Neighborworks/Heat Squad to do energy audits and conservation work in partnership with BEC.

Roles/responsibilities Hire one “Field” person as local with construction

experience...possible part time (20 hrs/wk) and a second “Back Office” person for

research, records, etc. Both hired as “consultant” to Brandon. Explore the requirement for an insurance requirement for the Energy Navigator.

JD offered a list of potential hires with home inspection experience. Would integrate with existing function to with offer home owners energy conservation alternatives.

How to promote? Lunch & Learns, distribute fliers thru food shelf, other places?

Discussions with Climate Economy Action Center of Addison County who run their Navigator Project - <https://ceacac.org/2023/10/01/the-navigator-project/>

JH asked about process for hiring TBD...work with TM S.Hopkins to assist.

Chamber Mixer BEC is scheduled for March - focus on energy navigator. – JE and RB to work on theme, set-up, location, etc. Report at next meeting

ToolShip 2 and snowblower(s)

>DM, JD to explore Public Fund (Shirley Farr)...complete grant application.

>JH Pursue Grant for weatherization materials \$600 - check with Library Board about distributing tools/supplies through BFPL. Have some mini “Button Up” events at the library?

Walk/bike path to downtown – JS Solarfest has qualified for a grant for path through its property. JE working on path through Elemental Partners. Contact Bill Moore and VTRANS reps to explore Scoping Study for third segments of walk path into Park Village.

MERP Implementation Grants - Water/Fire District received award for weatherizing Town facilities., including heat recovery of water systems.

Novus solar project status – JE ---final applications in place...implementation by Fall '25.

Solarfest solar project status – Spring '25 project for small scale solar. “Community Solar” to be a separate project for later in CY '25.

Review Budget – DM updated: \$1394 Balance on 2024-25 Budget. Review planned expenditures to end of FY 24-25. New Town Budget allots \$1500 to BEC.

Public Input: Tim Guiles...Greenfleets Rec Garage (heats sports equipmt) ...Equipmt to be moved to other space, so Rec Garage heater is being removed to save cost/energy. Promote awareness of “cultural norms” that waste energy (i.e., Town vehicles left idling when parked instead of turning off for minor gains in overall Town energy use & cost. Suggestion for BEC to help build awareness within the larger community about energy awareness. Could Town of Brandon create new by-laws or other regulatory mechanisms to support energy conservation and long-term costs control.

5:45 Review agreements made. Next meeting February 3rd 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