



## Bethel Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

AGENDA \_ 12/12/18

Place: Town Hall – Conference room

Time: 6 pm

## Attendance:

Amos Post, John Mattern, Amanda Wheeler, Nicole Cyr, Robert Carey, Scott Putney, Jose Lazo

**The meeting was called to order at 6:07**

Amanda Wheeler made a motion to approve the minutes of November 7, 2018, seconded by Nicole Cyr.

6:10 PM                      New Members    J. Lazo/R. Carey

New member Robert Carey was welcomed to the committee, a resume was distributed. Robert clearly offers a number of years of experience in the engineering field and work in a Municipal capacity.

Scott Putney is considering membership on the committee and joined the meeting as a long-standing business owner within the town with a vested interest in its future.

6:15 PM                      Solarize    Amos Post

Amos ordered two banners today, expected to arrive the last week of December. The committee discussed their placement in one or more of the following locations:

- Town Hall
- Schools
- Town Offices
- At the intersection of 12 and 107 (fishes)
- Across Main Street between Mascoma Bank and The Levere Block

Amanda confirmed the availability of the Town Hall for the Solarize Kickoff event being held on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 per Kelly Hill.

Amos proposed a 30-minute presentation to be followed by Laurie Fielder, VSECU. We anticipate that Kevin Gould, Mascoma Bank will also join us with financing options.

He provided a presentation form, which included a worksheet to help community members understand the value to group purchasing. The committee made a few

recommendations to help clarify the calculations and to provide further detail as it relates to credits, rebates, and payback modeling.

Scott voiced concern over due diligence being performed to ensure the lowest possible pricing. Amos confirmed that pricing was competitive and better than what others are offering at this time. Amanda shared that a meeting had been attended involving Catamount Solar.

Nicole will be attending the festivities at The Blossom Block from 11-4 this weekend. She suggested to offer a March coffee hour, a happy hour at Babe's, a display at The Arnold Block and to consider two "open houses".

In terms of advertising, Nicole suggested considering the week after Christmas to take advantage of savings that are offered as well as press releases to other media and contact with media representatives at The Herald, Times Argus, and WCAX.

There was concern over larger scale solar applications saturating the service lines disallowing further connection or issues that may affect smaller installations of grid tied projects. At this point Amos stated that Bethel is not at risk of saturation at this time. A question came up as to how other town's saturation issues affect us further down the line. Amos made suggestion for viewing the Energy Atlas on the Integrity Energy Website. Green Mountain power has a Solar Map on their website though it is not very current.

Nicole posed a question about disposal options for solar panels and if there was a solution that Amos was aware of presently. Currently he has an accumulation of panels to be disposed of. There may be opportunity at the Transfer Station that we could capitalize on Amanda to follow up with the manager.

7:30 PM

Social Media

Nicole Cyr

Vermont Energy Dashboard – Amanda will become responsible for postings on this site. We agreed that posts to social media would be reviewed and approved via the committee in either meeting or email forum as needed. Jose will provide the link and log in information for this site.

Facebook – This will be managed by Nicole via the Bethel Energy Committee page. The Kickoff will be advertised, volunteer coordination, and posts related to the holidays and energy specific items.

Front Porch Forum – Postings will be managed by Jose Lazo. Items such as the progress of Energy Committee projects, events, and news related to energy efficiencies will be available here.

7:45 PM                      EV Charging Stations                      Jose Lazo

Jose distributed the package to the group that was going to be discussed with the Select Board at their regular 12/17 meeting. Package showed VW EVSE grant, proposals from Charge Point on Level 2 and Level 3 Charging Stations, and Grass Roots grant paperwork showing authorization to change original grant objectives to match EVSE grant.

Group to review and provide feedback on the next meeting.

8:00 PM                      Open Discussion / Other                      Team

Add a “year ahead” project timeline for long term planning.

Next meeting January 2, 2019 at 6PM @ the TOWN CLERK OFFICE (not the Town Hall)

**8:06 PM                      Meeting Adjourned**