

Barre City Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2018

Committee Members Present: Elaine Wang, Member Teal, Phil Cecchini

Committee Members Absent: Tim Perrin

City Staff Present: Janet Shatney

Citizens Present: Richard Hiscock

Visitors: Amanda Garland

1. Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Amanda Garland, visitor was present and interested in the work being done by the BCEC, and hopes to help get her students from school participating in energy related items. She stayed for the whole meeting.

2. Changes to agenda? *None*

3. Approve meeting minutes for December 11, 2017: *Chair Wang asked to table the draft minutes to the next meeting so that she would have a chance to review them.*

4. Update on City Hall project - *Tabled due to City Manager Mackenzie's absence, and the Chair had an email from the City Manager stating the status. It was agreed that the "biggest bang for our buck" is to insulate the roof, but that the roof is not strong enough to hold all the snow. The project is to make an energy efficient roof and support for future structural components.*

5. Community Solar Campaign: *Discussion as to rolling out a campaign during the Feb. 7 Solar workshop occurred, as well as the very definition of a campaign. Member Teal stated other municipalities' success has been hinged upon very active community members forming an LLC o to find a site or enlist businesses then push the idea out. Defined steps of the BCEC are:*

a. find a group of people who want to be a part of community solar; and

b. find people who are interested or have a desire to host a solar site.

A further discussion initiated by Mr. Hiscock occurred regarding community solar, his desire to invite legislative members to the workshop, and rules not in line with people's ideas. He questioned the Committee's opinion on being tied to a solar community project. Member Cecchini said that the Committee would need to gauge people's interest first, and once that interest was found, that perhaps then a move forward would happen. Mr. Hiscock reiterated his feeling that the heat needs to be placed on the legislature. Chair Wang explained that she wouldn't champion that idea unless it was unanimous of the Committee.

Ultimately, no campaign will be launched, but the workshop will be utilized to solicit interest from anyone outside of the BCEC to champion a community solar project.

6. Plan solar workshop for Feb. 7, 2018: *the workshop is being held at the Aldrich Library, and Renewable Energy VT is our vendor. They will present, and other vendors should be invited, like*

Catamount, Aegis, SunCommon, etc. The first half-hour would be demo's and peer communication during food, then the main speaker, then followed up by vendor time. Will keep the workshop focused on energy efficiency.

Member Teal said he met a member of the So. Burlington energy committee for ideas; and perhaps members of the Thetford and/or Waitsfield energy committees might be able to come and give a presentation on community solar, which Member Teal will reach out to Thetford, and Chair Wang will reach out to Waitsfield. Chair Wang will draft an email that will be sent by Member Teal. If these folks couldn't attend, will need to come up with an alternative discussion, such that there would be a short dialog time, then the vendor presentation, then vendor Q&A. Member Teal will create and post flyers to aid in drawing people to the workshop.

7. Sandwich Board sign discussion: *the library doesn't allow sandwich board signs for those people that utilize the library. But Sarah Costa, Director of the library informed us that if the workshop were co-sponsored by the library, we would then have our workshop notice sent out by the library's mailing address.*

Signage was discussed, and a motion was made by Member Teal and seconded by Member Cecchini to utilize up to \$100 to purchase signage that are generic enough to reuse for various workshops, motion carried unanimously.

8. VBike: *Member Teal talked with Darin Ohls of the bike shop in the downtown and was positively received, therefore we will continue with VBike.*
9. Member Recruitment: *talked about under #6 previously during those discussions.*
10. Adjourn – motion to adjourn by Member Cecchini and seconded by Member Teal at 6:37 pm.