

**RESILIENCE AND ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
(FKA ENERGY COMMITTEE, CREB)
283 County Road - Parking lot in between Town Hall and the Library
Please bring your own chairs
Tuesday, August 24, 2021 @ 6:30 P.M. – 8:00 pm**

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome new committee member: Jonathan Mellor
3. Approve minutes from June 28, 2021 meeting.
4. Review and discuss and take any appropriate actions:
 - A. Electricity Aggregation Program: Patrick Roche (Good Energy) documents sent around for review – any additional questions to pose to Good Energy?
 - B. Strategic Energy Plan (SEP) Kim to Update on: * the **sub cmt mtg** held in July with John Balfé (NEEP) on the Energy Plan; * **school department** energy plan input; * **energy audit** of Town Buildings by National Grid that took place in early July; * **need a volunteer** to write a section for this document on vehicle contributions to and options around reducing CO2 output for our town energy use
 - C. BMS Solar Project: Kim to Update on solar array for the Middle School - * any actions undertaken; * funding options identified; *agreements/plans to move forward?
 - D. In light of the new IPCC report of the worldwide climate emergency (see attached two docs summaries)(1) (2): Where should we be placing our emphasis in the Town?; * can we revisit the idea of a large solar field on top of the land fill?
 - E. What has this committee accomplished in the past 2 yrs? (see the attached) (3)
 - F. Mike Carrol to discuss possible directions he hopes this committee will encompass
5. Any additional Committee member reports of progress on their identified issues of interest and take any appropriate actions; September planned (no date yet) meeting of the HWM subcmt.
6. The next proposed meeting date - Tuesday, Sept 28, 2021.
7. Adjourn

Attachments:

1. IEA/International Energy Agency - <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>
2. IPCC/ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change https://ideas.ted.com/new-sixth-ipcc-report-on-climate-change-key-takeaways/?utm_campaign=countdown&utm_source=countdownweekly&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20210813-1
3. For the year 2020 the Resilience and Energy committee focused on the following issues:
 - Municipal aggregation effort:

The committee worked with Patrick Roche from Good Energy *on the Barrington Community Aggregation Plan*. An aggregation plan allows the Town electricity users to come together, and in this case also with the City of Providence, to bargain for better electricity rates for those who participate. All town electricity users may participate and those who do not wish to participate will need to opt-out. The agreement is now at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for approval. The R&E committee suggested that there be 4 options included in the choices from which participants may select their energy generation: *Standard* – to include approximately 10% additional renewable energy above the State of RI requirement; *Basic* - offers the same amount of renewable energy offered by National Grid's Standard Offer product; for those wanting to opt-up in renewable energy there are two options: *50% Green energy* and *100% Green energy*. All amounts of green energy are approximations to be specifically determined once the bids and the PUC effort are further along. The actual cost per kWh will also be determined after the PUC approval – expected by the fall. The goal is to support more green energy use in the town and to save money while accomplishing that goal. The Town Council is the group that approves this energy aggregation effort for the town.
 - Benchmarking Town performance on 2020 Energy Goals set in 2011 and beginning the process to set the next town wide Energy Goals.
 - In 2011, the Town Council set a 2020 Energy Goal of reducing the town's energy based on a 2009 benchmark by 10% using efficiency efforts. By 2013 the Town had already met that goal and saved nearly \$500,000 and a great deal of released carbon dioxide. Then energy usage started to climb again and another reduction goal was set – 20% by 2020 (from the 2009 benchmark). In 2020, most of that goal was achieved – some achieving more and some achieving less. It is now time to set the next energy goal. The Energy and Resilience (E&R) committee is starting that process with the help of NEEP (New England Energy ??)

- Contributed to Town pandemic plan: one of the committee members has expertise in HVAC and notified the Town Council of covid-19 destroying light bulbs that work within air handling systems.
- Supported installation of EV charger stations at Town Hall and Police Cove
- Advocated for solar on the solar-ready roof at BMS: explored funding options for a solar array on the school roof; participated in building committee meetings and presented support for a solar array; wrote supportive letters to the newspaper.
- Developed Town of Barrington Resilient Future Resolution – Approved at Dec 14, 2020 committee meeting for submission to Town Council. Approved at February 4, 2021 Town Council meeting.
- Supported Planning Department’s pilot project to install sea level rise (SLR)/flood sensors for street lights for real time notification of flooding in specific locations through contact with the company and learning about the technology.
- Committee reviewed the goals and strategies compiled in the Town’s 2011 Strategic Energy Plan, 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan, and 2019 Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop Summary of Findings (SOF) in an effort to determine what resilience issues should be added to the committee remit for attention and possible actions. Each committee member has chosen up to 3 issues to support and lead action on.
- Reviewed and endorsed a number of planning department grant initiatives. The planning department has received grants for town resiliency work totalling \$640,000+.