

1 **REGULAR BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

2 **Monday, August 24, 2020 at 5:30 pm via Zoom**

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4 Committee members present: Elaine Wang, Chair; Conor Teal, Vice-Chair; Phil Cecchini,
5 Romni Palmer

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7 Committee members absent: None

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9 Visitors: Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies, LLC

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11 **1. Call to Order – 5:33 p.m.**

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13 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda:** after discussion of Button up, None.

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15 **3. Visitors and Communications (for something not on the agenda):** None.

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17 **4. Old Business**

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19 a. **Review and approval of July 27, 2020 meeting minutes:** A motion was made by P.
20 Cecchini and seconded by R. Palmer to approve the July 27, 2020 meeting minutes, *passed*
21 *with E. Wang abstaining.*

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23 R. Palmer pointed out the June 22, 2020 meeting minutes weren't on the agenda as they
24 were tabled to this meeting, therefore the committee took action on them at this time. A
25 motion was made by C. Teal and seconded by R. Palmer to approve the June 22, 2020
26 meeting minutes as presented on the city website with little discussion, *passed*
27 *unanimously.*

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29 b. **Energy Survey Follow Ups Report Back (all members):** energy survey follow-ups, C.
30 Teal left voicemails, no return calls back. R. Palmer didn't make any calls, but heard back
31 from 3 people from her emails. P. Cecchini called some folks, and answered their questions
32 and referred his people appropriately. E. Wang asked if any further follow up was needed,
33 and Phil felt all was handled.

34
35 R. Palmer shared that her 3 people were very involved, and had all kinds of questions on
36 public policy and local actions. One of her 3 people already had solar installed, but was
37 concerned if she was wasting electricity with all her devices in her house, air leaks in the
38 house, etc. but sent her the appropriate links and he home energy visit. E. Wang did 2
39 rounds of emails and 2 rounds of phone calls for 5 people. Connected 1 with Brad, and
40 emailed with 2 and connected them with Brad as well.

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42 c. **Update from Efficiency Vermont:** B. Long not able to make the call.

- 43
44 d. **Update from EcoStrategies, consultant for Barre City Energy Plan community**
45 **engagement:** Per D. Sachs, news by Tabor Valley HVAC about recent install at 802 coffee
46 had a new energy efficient 3-head heat pump installed and suggested that BCEC connect

47 and get their story. In addition, Isabella and she had a good interview with Max (12) and
48 Mom, Kelsey, about winning the Kids Bicycle Adventure Challenge. We're developing a
49 story on the interview and have developed a transportation tip about Max and his favorite
50 bike adventure going for take-out. Staff is checking in with Darren of VT Bicycle Shop to
51 ensure we complement news by VBS. D. Sachs requested success stories be added as a
52 tab on the city BCEC website page, and J. Shatney said that could easily happen. In this
53 instance, the Transportation Tip would be linked to broader story on BCEC's webpage. It
54 might look like a Transportation tip, linked to the broader story on the website. Having a
55 placeholder, we might then add the 802 coffee success story, and how we've reached out
56 and engaged individuals and businesses. It was noted that Meltdown has done renovations
57 and we might capture that story, too. The featured story helps businesses get more
58 exposure.

- 59
- 60 e. **Discuss next push for survey responses:** The Committee talked about voting day, but
61 noted it could be a problem, managing input of a lot of paper surveys, and didn't want to
62 add this back to D. Sachs's contract. Discussion followed, with a preference to encourage
63 electronic surveys. D. Sachs's noted that some folks cannot complete electronically. To
64 address this inequity, we may want to supplement the electronic push with a "complete
65 your survey by phone". Discussion followed on how to manage this. It will require an
66 advanced list of names and phone numbers. Discussion about who's telephone number
67 would be made available for interested individuals to call. What is the community
68 perspective on needs and concerns?

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70 Much discussion occurred about the best way to administer this second phase survey push,
71 who to send it to, how to frame it up, and how best it would happen. To ensure the phone
72 and paper version is coordinated, D. Sachs will propose a plan on how best to administer
73 prior to September 28th BCEC meeting. Upon request for Committee input by Co-chair,
74 E Wang, R. Palmer suggested waiting until the next meeting to push the electronic survey,
75 so that D. Sachs could propose push plan steps. P. Cecchini suggested BCEC's response
76 be on the heels of the push. D. Sachs will send the survey push plan on or before September
77 21st.

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- 79 f. **Discuss changes to scope of work with EcoStrategies:** A discussion took place as to the
80 revised scope, based on D. Sach's email to the group last week. The purpose of the
81 roadmap is to equip the BCEC with suggestions on moving forward after end of
82 consultancy. BCEC is in need of ways to get things done. The roadmap will seed actions
83 to move the City forward on its energy future.

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85 Based on the 3 sectors (EE, RE and Transportation), the proposed roadmap will offer the
86 BCEC with specific suggestions on how to engage and advance the City to a clean energy,
87 post-carbon future. Energy is not often raised as a priority topic. The roadmap will suggest
88 ways to help continue engaging the community.

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- 90 g. **Discuss how to present the energy plan to planning commission and City Council:** E.
91 Wang noted that you cannot tell someone something once, it must be reiterated.
92 Encouraging a dialogue, strategic timing and key communications with other city groups

93 is very important. P. Cecchini said that conveying the draft roadmap and including the
94 Planning Commission would be smart. P. Cecchini suggested engaging City Councilors
95 informally one-on-one. Further discussion occurred about the happenings of BCEC, and
96 how best to inform and engage Councilors and their constituents. All agreed that BCEC
97 should get inform and encourage the Council to help push the energy survey. Discussion
98 followed on the idea of giving each member QR code cards leading the individual to the
99 online survey so that when they dialog with folks, it might help to inform the City Council
100 on how best to advance the City's energy future. It might be used as a learning tool for
101 them as to what BCEC is doing, and to convey what's happening in the City. C. Teal will
102 check with Tracie Lewis, Executive Director of the Barre Partnership to what might work
103 on Thursdays, for those that need hard-copy surveys. Motion by P Cecchini to reach out
104 to D. Sachs to get surveys out in the best way he sees fit, spending up to \$200 for
105 reimbursables, seconded by R. Palmer, *motion passed unanimously*.

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107 Part of the push plan is to inform and include the City Council on the survey effort. E.
108 Wang is not able to present to City Council as she has responsibilities to her work on
109 Tuesday evenings, so asked if someone could do September 29th at a Council meeting, C.
110 Teal committed to this action. J. Shatney will get him on the agenda.

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112 5. New Business

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114 a. **Consider participating in Button Up 2020:** this year is about to get the home energy
115 visits marketed, with more advertising, so would assist us with what the committee is doing
116 at the very moment. Motion to participate in Button Up 2020 campaign by P. Cecchini
117 and seconded by C. Teal, *motion passed unanimously*.

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119 6. Adjourn: a motion to adjourn at 7:26 pm was made by P. Cecchini and seconded by R. Palmer,
120 *motion carried unanimously*.