

Basalt Green Team
September 13, 2021
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Via Zoom and at Town Hall

Attendees included Susan Philp, Sara Nadolny, Catherine Christoff, Phi Filerman, Mary Wiener, Mike Steiner, Amanda Poindexter, Pranav Lakhina, Chris Howard, and Dave Mullaney, Martin Bonzi and Gerry Terwilliger

Guests: Black Hills Energy, including Carly West, Ryan Pogue, Joe Limone, Katie Flemming, Todd Ellsworth and Amy Fiola

Meeting started at 3:35 pm.

Agenda Items:

- Approve Minutes from July 12 & August 9, 2021
- Black Hills Energy Presentation
- Projects
 - Update on Solar Project
 - Update on Code Amendments
 - Discuss Grant Program
- Member/Participant Updates

1. Approval of Minutes

M/S Gerry and Martin to approve the meeting minutes from July 12, 2021 and August 9, 2021. Motion passed 4 to 0.

2. Black Hills Energy Presentation

The Black Hills Energy Staff provided an overview of the clean energy goals, including reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2040 (baseline unknown). Black Hills is participating in the EPA's Methane Challenge Program (<https://www.epa.gov/natural-gas-star-program/methane-challenge-program>), One Future Coalition (<https://onefuture.us/>), and renewable natural gas. Black Hills is also working in partnership with GTI on the Colorado Energy Study (www.gti.energy/GHG/RES).

According to Black Hills, current coal generation will need to be displaced by natural gas. Gas is cheaper than 100% electric. Studies suggest switching to high efficiency gas appliances to save energy. More information can be found at www.blackhillsenergy.com/sustainability. Amy said she can connect people and businesses to custom programs.

3. Projects

Catherine discussed viable solar landing sites in the Town of Basalt. She said the Town is releasing an RFP to study sites for viability, including a shading analysis, connection to the grid, and success that may be had with different types of solar systems.

Mike said that all of the identified sites have access to power, so they are viable in that respect.

There needs to be consideration of the Town's resiliency goals with adding battery storage in certain locations, such as the high school. There is an opportunity to partner with the school with the solar used as an educational tool.

Staff (Catherine and Sara) have engaged in conversations with CORE and a local Basalt High School student who is looking to get EV chargers at the school. He is pursuing a Charge Ahead grant.

Solar bike EV charging stations have been proposed. This project will need a partnership with RFTA.

A subcommittee is continuing to meet, including Jeff Dickinson, Mitch Miller, Amanda, Susan, Sara, Catherine, Mitch and Phi, to work on Code Amendments related to the Sustainable Building Regulations and other green code initiatives. The goal is for Basalt to get the amendments into place prior to the next Building Code update is adopted.

The Green Team has considered at past meetings a grant program to incentivize residential building efficiency and fuel switching retrofits. Sara prepared a list of questions for the Green Team's consideration, including the amount of the grant budget, how much could be allocated to any single person or project, how to handle multi-family buildings, if new build could be eligible, potential criteria requirements such as income & assets, age of building, and what specifically could the grant funding be used for.

Mary recommended that the focus be on retrofitting existing building stock and getting people out of their cars. She asked if we should also focus on cooling as it may become a necessity.

Catherine suggested there could be a focus on insulation.

Mary is going to connect with Eagle County (John Gitchell and Doug Jones) to see if there is any focus on mobile homes in this area. Last year Eagle County had a project related to fuel switching and energy efficiency improvements in Dotsero area mobile homes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.