

ENHANCED ENERGY PLANNING WORKING GROUP

NORWICH ENERGY COMMITTEE NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, Tracy Hall

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Linda Gray (NEC Chair), Chris Damiani (TRORC), Susan Hardy (NEC), Aaron Lamperti (NEC), Norm Levy (NEC)

Members Absent: Courtney Dragiff (NCC), Jaci Allen (PC), Jeff Goodrich (PC), Luke Boyden, Jonathan Teller-Ellsberg (NEC)

Clerk: Phil Dechert **Other:** Erin Macchione, (TRORC)

Linda Gray, of the Norwich Energy Commission, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Agenda Approved**
2. **Comments from the Public** - None
3. **Minutes** – 1-2-17 Regular Meeting and 1/23 Working Session were approved unanimously (moved by Norm Levy, seconded by Aaron Lampert)
4. **Announcements, Reports, Updates & Correspondence**
 - a. Chris Damiani noted that the Town of Bennington and the Bennington Regional Planning Commission are being sued by solar developers over the town's energy plan, in part relating to its designation of preferred sites for solar development (developed by opponents of solar, discriminatory, and not based on objective criteria) information at:
<https://vtdigger.org/2018/01/28/solar-developer-sues-bennington-energy-plan/>
<http://www.benningtonbanner.com/stories/solar-developer-questions-town-energy-plan,529174>
5. **Review of related energy information in current Town Plan as it relates to the standards of Act 174**
 - a. Data analysis and targets: the list of questions and suggested revisions (**Attachment 1**) to the information compiled by TRORC was reviewed.
 - i. Next Steps:
 1. Chris Damiani will follow up on the suggestions for revisions, reformatting, and additional information;
 2. Linda Gray will share with Chris Damiani the Google spreadsheet tracking solar installations in Norwich; and
 3. Phil Dechert will share with Chris Damiani the 2014 Smart Commute survey.
 - b. Pathways
 - i. Transportation: Chris Damiani will incorporate the notes and revisions compiled by Susan Hardy (**Attachment 2**)

- ii. Conservation/Efficiency: brief discussion of the review by Norm Levy, and the need and options for strengthening enforcement of energy building codes.
- iii. Renewable Development/Siting: consensus to ask local solar developers Norwich Solar Technologies and Solaflect to participate in a review of potential sites, to help compile a list of sites realistically suitable for solar development.
- c. Next Steps Goals, Objectives and Policies

6. Other Business – None

7. Future Meeting Schedule & Agenda Items

- a. Tuesday, March 6, 2018 – Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM
 - i. Goals, Objectives and Policy
 - ii. Continue review of reports related to energy information in current Town Plan as it relates to the standards of Act 174 Checklist

8. Comments from the Public - None

Adjournment: 8:33 PM

Phil Dechert, Clerk

APPROVED 3-15-18

Future Meetings:

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 – Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM

Enhanced Energy Planning Subcommittee Agendas & Minutes available at:

<http://norwich.vt.us/planning-commission/> and <http://norwich.vt.us/energy-committee/>

ATTACHMENT 1

NEC - Enhanced energy plan : Municipal template notes 1/31/18

Overall, the headings and text needs to be simplified a bit to make it easier to understand the main points. Suggested headings are below. Let's be consistent about how we use terms like target, goal, municipal, commercial etc...

Baseline could be more clearly explained. Maybe each of the goal tables should have a baseline with a year.

Also, these tables could be organized into sections to better tell the story.

For example :

1. This is where we are (clearly state the percentage of our current energy use which is renewable)

2. These are our goals and generation potential.

3. This is what we will look like if we meet these goals with some sort of calculation showing how these use and generation goals meets the 90% renewable target.

Any reason we can't lose the 'f' in the section numbers? ie 1A could just be A?

1A - Transportation use . Average cost of gas rounded?

1B - Residential heating use . Wood heatings units presumably doesn't include supplemental use? . Solar heating same thing?

1C - Commercial heating use . Commercial heating energy estimated to be about half the residential. This might

make it a good target for efficiency efforts? . What is 'municipalcommercial'? Do you just mean commercial?

1D - Electricity use . Residential plus commercial doesn't add to total . I'm not sure the word industrial is needed here.

1E - Residential heating efficiency targets (% of homes to be weatherized)

1F - Commercial heating efficiency targets (% of establishments to be weatherized) . These goals seem low. Why not make them the same as residential (33/67/100)

1G - Heating fuel switching targets - wood (pellets?) . This seems like a good areator non-zero goals. Maybe something modest like 50/1 00/1 50?

1H - Heating fuel switching targets - Heat pumps . Any reason not to combine 1G and 1H into one table?

1I - Electricity efficiency targets . These seem low, but more research might be needed to propose reasonable while more aggressive goals

1J - Renewables - Transportation goals . Presumably almost exclusively EVs

NEC - Enhanced energy plan : Municipal template notes

1K - Renewables - Heating goals . Presumably mostly heat pumps and wood

1L - Renewable generation goals - Electricity . Presumably 19-20 K MWh per year of solar. This is 26 times current solar

generation. . Interim goals?

1M - Transportation switching goals - EVs . Maybe change this to percentage goals since growth is such an unknown?

10/40/100?

1N - Transportation switching goals - Biodiesel Vehicles . Probably should be much more modest. .

Also could be changed to percentages. . Combine 1M and 1N into single table? . Lets add a line for transportation mode switching goals as well.

1O - Existing renewable generation

1P - Renewable generation potential

1Q - Renewable generation goals . Could we include wood here? . Interim goals?

1R - Sufficient land to meet generation goals?

1/31/18

ATTACHMENT 2

Transportation Review for Enhanced Energy Plan Pathways updated 2-4-18

7. Does your plan's energy element contain a statement of policy on reducing transportation energy demand and single-occupancy vehicle use, and encouraging use of renewable or lower-emission energy sources for transportation?

Comments from Chris: Similar to the last standard more background info would be helpful as well. Need to include language and policies around electric vehicles and charging stations especially since they are one of the data points in the Analysis and Standards Section. Add "actors" to the actions to give direction on who should be leading that effort such as PC, EC, Town officials etc. or at least identify where potential funding can come from to make them actionable actions

Section 9 Transportation (G goals) of the Town Plan meets most of the above except that it has little or no mention of lower-emission energy sources; much more needed on EVs. Section 10 Energy (H goals) also meets some of the above.

Also need to **identify actors:**

NEC,
SB,
PC,
Trails (and Transportation?) Committee,
resurrect/create a Transportation Committee?

Suggested **additions to narrative for Section 9 Transportation of Town Plan**

- Upgrading Existing Roads (p. 9-5). Mention need for accommodating bicycles/pedestrians
- Norwich Village (pp 9-6 and 9-7): mention bicycle access, including lanes and protected bike racks

Suggested **additions to narrative for Section 10 Energy of Town Plan**

- Profile (p 10-3) mention EVs in last paragraph
- Energy Conservation (p 10-4) add EVs to first paragraph

Suggested additions to various action items in the Town Plan are in subsections below.

Note there is some overlap of topics; I tried to put coverage/ suggestions into the most appropriate section:

- A. public transit
- B. shift away from single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips
- C. shift away from fossil fuels
- D. walking and biking infrastructure
- E. municipal leadership
- F. other

A. Does the plan encourage increased use of public transit?

(Actions could include participation in efforts to identify and develop new public transit routes, promote full utilization of existing routes, integrate park-and-rides with transit routes, etc.)

From Chris: G4.B; G11.A-C; I1.e

This is covered in both Section 9 Transportation (G actions) and Section 10 Energy (H actions) of the Town Plan and is an action item in Section 11 Natural and Historic Resources (I actions):

Transportation G.4.b (traffic congestion) and G.11.a-c (awareness of PT)
Energy H.8.b, c, and g (promoting energy-efficient transportation)
Natural and Historic Resources I.1.e (air quality)

Suggestions:

Add to Objective G.11 (Awareness and Use of Public Transportation) as follows:

- Add fuel-efficiency to the wording for the Objective
- Action G.11.a add wording to include protected bike racks and EV charging stations at park and rides
- Action G.11.b add van pools to wording
- **New** action G.11.e Provide additional park & rides and/or extend AT routes to reach those who have to travel through the town center to reach the Huntley Meadow P&R
- **New** action G.11.f Investigate/encourage later evening public transportation options so that PT is possible for evening events and later work shifts
- **New.** Make public transit a line item in the Town budget rather than a yearly request for AT funding. This line would show town commitment and could be used for other public transit initiatives in the future.

B. Does the plan promote a shift away from single-occupancy vehicle trips, through strategies appropriate to the municipality?^[SEP]

(Actions could include rideshare, vanpool, car-sharing initiatives; efforts to develop or increase park-and-rides; enhancement of options such as rail and telecommuting; education; intergovernmental cooperation; etc.)

From Chris: G4.B; G11.A-C; TRORC has data on park and rides and get data from Advanced Transit on current ridership for brown route more specifically as to where more people get picked up, to include language on the gap for why people don't utilize it that much and maybe put a suggestion for a new P&R lot; encourage home business and/ or co-working spaces

Some of this is answered above for 7A on public transportation (including P&R lots that don't require driving thru town center to reach).

Also currently covered in H.4.c and H.8

Other additions:

- Objective G.1 (Provide and maintain network). **New** action G.1.b Add bike/walk ways when upgrading town roads
- Objective G.3 (Long-range plan for maintenance and upgrades). Mention EV charging stations and add **new** action G.3.c to include EV charging stations in all long-range planning for park-and-ride lots
- Objective G.11 (Awareness and Use of Public Transportation). Add fuel-efficiency to the wording
 - Action G.11.a add wording to include bike racks at park and rides
 - Action G.11.b add van pools to wording
- H.4.c (allow appropriate home occupations) Reword / add to encourage home business and co-working spaces
- **New** action H.8.m. Investigate feasibility of "zip" cars for shared vehicle use (this might include a pick-up truck or two so not everyone has to add one to their individual fleet)
- Objective I.1.e (re Air Quality) Collaborate with neighboring communities and AT. Add **new** action I.1.h. Promote EV use and consider shared "zip" vehicles
- **Add new**. Encourage errand pooling/ride sharing by neighbors, perhaps with special web-page for folks seeking/offering rides.

C. Does the plan promote a shift away from gas/diesel vehicles to **electric or other non-fossil fuel** transportation options through strategies appropriate to the municipality?¹¹⁷_{SEP} (Actions could include promoting the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, providing education and outreach to potential users, supporting non-fossil fuel vehicle availability through outreach to vehicle dealers, etc.)

From Chris: Need a lot more info on this. Nothing found in plan. Maybe provide map of where they currently are, make required in new developments

This is partly covered in the Energy section of the Town Plan and in the various Transportation actions to promote bicycle/pedestrian use through improved pathways and additional bike racks.

H.8.a-k (which includes H.8.f re EV charging stations)

Suggested additions:

- **New** H.7.g. Promote EV use via education, incentives if we can find them, etc.
- Strengthen Action H.8.f. Add more wording with something like “Encourage use of electric vehicles through more charging stations”
- **New** action H.8.l Investigate state and local grants and incentives for EV owners and EV charging stations at public parking facilities and local businesses
- **New**. More on educating public on advantages of EVs (long-term costs, maintenance, etc. in addition to energy efficiency)
- **New**. Require EV charging stations for any new development that includes multiple-unit buildings
- **New**. Promote use of EVs by town departments

D. Does the plan facilitate the development of walking and biking infrastructure through strategies appropriate to the municipality?

(Actions could include studying, planning for, seeking funding for, or implementing improvements that encourage safe and convenient walking and biking; adopting a "Complete Streets" policy, etc.)

From Chris: G12.b; H8.b; G6.a; G1; H8.d Talk about complete streets policies and see if current road standards meet that, get more specific on the policies such as G4b is pretty vague on how to take action on the policy

See comments above for 7B: shift away from SOVs

Also covered in H.8.b, d, e, g, h, i, and k

Suggested additions

- Add bike lanes/ walkways to Objective G.1 (Maintaining.. network)
- Strengthen G.4.b (Facilitate alternative modes of transportation, such as sidewalks, bikeways, park-and-ride lots, carpooling and public transit.)
- Any ideas that aren't already stated?
- Bring back and make official a Transportation Committee?? Or add these actions to Trails Committee?

E. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality's leadership by example with respect to the efficiency of municipal transportation?^[SEP]
(Actions could include purchasing energy efficient municipal and fleet vehicles when practicable, installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, etc.)

From Chris: could use a little more; AT; Stagecoach partnership not just encourage use but put in policies for the town to be part of decision making process for AT and stagecoach public hearings, Use strategies from Norwich Energy Strategic plan

H.1.i (trade-offs between pollution, emissions, energy costs) Could **strengthen** with mention of EVs; promote use of EVs by town departments

H.1.k **add** EVs before alternative fuels and hybrid-drive systems

Add something about encouraging school district(s) to use electric school buses and vans

Also mentioned under Public Transit. Make public transit a line item in the Town budget rather than a yearly request for AT funding. This line would show town commitment and could be used for other public transit initiatives in the future.

F. Other (please use the notes section to describe additional approaches that your municipality is taking)