

ENHANCED ENERGY PLANNING WORKING GROUP

NORWICH ENERGY COMMITTEE NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 15, 2018, Tracy Hall

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Linda Gray (NEC Chair), Chris Damiani (TRORC), Susan Hardy (NEC) (at 7:55), Norm Levy (NEC), and Erin Macchione, (TRORC)

Clerk: Phil Dechert **Others/Guests:** Troy McBride, Linda Cook, Marcia Calloway, Colin Calloway and Frank Manasek

Linda Gray, of the Norwich Energy Commission, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

1. Agenda Approved

2. Comments from the Public - None

3. Minutes – 2-6-18 Regular Meeting minutes were approved unanimously

4. Announcements, Reports, Updates & Correspondence

- a. Chris Damiani noted that the initial suit against the enhanced energy plan developed by the Town of Bennington and the Bennington Regional Planning Commission was withdrawn by solar developers, and a revised suit has been filed and can be found at: <https://vtdigger.org/2018/02/28/suit-town-solar-plan-dismissed-new-appeal-launched/>

5. Reports related to energy information in current Town Plan as it relates to the standards of Act 174 Checklist:

- a. Data analysis and targets: A revision drafted by Chris Damiani was reviewed, and a variety of clarifications, editing, and reformatting changes were suggested.
 - i. Follow-up items: Chris will develop a new draft for the next meeting; Phil Dechert will share with Chris the 2014 Smart Commute survey.
- b. Pathways: Discussion focused on one area - Pathways on Renewable Development/Siting:
 - i. Linda had met with local solar developers Norwich Solar Technologies and Solaflect to review potential sites. Instead of compiling a list of "preferred" sites where the Town wishes to encourage development, they proposed the reverse: identifying the smaller portion where the Town wishes to prevent development and therefore designate as not "preferred."
 - ii. To identify the context of Norwich 2050 renewable generation, Linda presented these statistics:
 1. 16 MW installed solar needed in Norwich, to meet RE generation goal (to generate 20,000 MWh/yr);
 2. ~10 acres needed for 1 MW installed solar ... 160 acres needed for 16 MW; and

3. 160 of the 28416 acres in Norwich = .005, or .5% of Town's total land area
- iii. Discussion clarified that "preferred sites" are relevant only to net-metered projects (which must be <500 kW, likely to be on 4-5 acres), and the various environmental protections that are part of the State's "Section 248" review of energy projects.
- iv. There was agreement to look to Town subdivision and zoning regulations for language that could be borrowed to convey Town-level siting concerns, primarily aesthetics. Marcia Calloway suggested making reference to the 16-MW and /or 160-acre targets.

6. Other Business – None

7. Future Meeting Schedule & Agenda Items

- a. Tuesday, April 3, 2018 – Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM
- b. Continued review of Act 174 Checklist and the current Town Plan

8. Comments from the Public

- a. Marcia Calloway (see 5iv) above.

Adjournment: 9:03 PM

Phil Dechert, Clerk

APPROVED 4-3-18

Future Meetings:

Tuesday, April 3, 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/>