

ENHANCED ENERGY PLANNING WORKING GROUP

NORWICH ENERGY COMMITTEE
NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 20, 2019, Tracy Hall

Regular Meeting

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Lynnwood Andrews (Conservation Commission), Rob Gere (NEC), Linda Gray (NEC Chair), Aaron Lamperti (NEC)
Others/Guests: Linda Cook, Charlie Lindner (NEC volunteer, at 7:05)

Clerk: Linda Gray

Staff: Rod Francis

Linda Gray, of the Norwich Energy Commission, called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM

1. **Approve Agenda** - Approved by those present
2. **Comments from the Public** - None
3. **Minutes** – 2-5-19 – Approved by those present
4. **Announcements, Reports, Updates & Correspondence** - None
5. **Review of Draft Town Plan Energy Chapter**
 - a. Rod introduced the draft, and explained that, for the new Town Plan, the Planning Commission is aiming for a succinct format focused on what the Town actually can do. As background, he noted that, in Vermont, town plans have an unusual combination of regulatory (relating to land use) and broader policy purposes. A plan's regulatory role requires blunt and specific language that is examined in court-like settings, while the policy portions usually have more aspirational language. The Planning Commission has decided the new Town Plan will be clear about what the Town can do something about and what it cannot.
 - b. Rod proposes that the data and target information provided by the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission be included as is. While we have issues with some of the data, it is simplest to reference their data. The other source that Rod drew on is the Energy Dashboard compiled by the Energy Action Network <https://www.vtenergydashboard.org/my-community/norwich/progress> .
 - c. Rod asked that we give feedback on the various numbers incorporated in the draft.
 - d. Discussion of the Objectives/Policies/Actions section of the draft included these points:
 - i. incorporate into Policies the recently-approved mandate for the Town to reduce its fossil fuel use
 - ii. aim for at least one Action for each Policy
 - iii. add an Action relating to the enforcement of Vermont's building energy code
 - iv. add an Action on an additional zoning district on the edge of the existing village with higher density than the existing rural residential.
 - v. consider an Action to have the assessor collect information on homes' energy use/effective age
 - vi. add an Action to propose adding a penny to the tax rate and dedicate that revenue to an energy-related use (multi-use paths, or home weatherization)
 - vii. consider an action to request Green Mtn Power to reinstitute the pilot program in which individual bills highlight how each customer's electricity use compares to neighbors' use.
 - e. In discussion on the Renewable Energy Project Siting Standards section, additional parking lot locations were added to the draft list: the Montshire Museum, Fogg's (the commercial district on Rte. 5 South), municipal buildings. The language that aimed to preserve land suitable for compact housing was dropped, because its goal seems to be covered by the language on decommissioning.
 - f. The group confirmed that Rod should take the draft to the Planning Commission 3/28 meeting without recirculating it to this group first.
 - i. Working Group members were encouraged to attend that meeting.
 - g. The Working Group would like to review the draft Transportation Chapter as well.

6. Other Business

7. Future Meeting Schedule & Agenda Items

- a. April 2, 2019 at 7:00 PM
 - i. continued Review of Draft Town Plan Energy Chapter;

8. Comments from the Public - None

Adjournment: 9:00 PM

Linda Gray

APPROVED 4-2-19

Future Meetings:

Tuesday, April 2, 2019 – 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/>