

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 3/22/22, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz
Guests: Linda Cook

1. The 2/22 minutes and 3/22 agenda were approved by consensus.
2. Updates on existing projects
 - A. Electrify Everything: Charlie Lindner is doing weekly list serv posts, has run once through all the topics in the Action Plan, plans to go through them a second time. The posts have prompted some follow-up inquiries; there was discussion on how to keep useful answers available for future reference, but no conclusion.
 - B. Window Dressers: Linda reported that dates for the 2022 Norwich-Hanover community build are 10/14-20, at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College; previous volunteer measurers are available; current customers (22, for ~160 inserts) have been contacted to confirm interest and start scheduling for measuring visits. Outreach to households with limited budgets is underway.
 - C. April EV event in Norwich: Linda reported details – an EV driver “show and tell” on Saturday, 4/23, 10-1, using the MCS and St. Barnabas driveways, coordinated with Hartford, Thetford, and Sharon energy committees. E-bikes will also be there, from individual owners plus Vt Bike & Brew (Thetford) and Hanover Adventure Tours (Norwich). Linda and organizers from the other towns agreed to keep the emphasis on peer-to-peer interactions, and not invite auto dealers, but rely on the VLS buyer’s guide. Discussion about ensuring that info on GMP incentives is available. Charlie will incorporate information about the event into his list serv posts.
 - D. eBike loans for 2022: Norwich dates are 5/11-24; the schedule will have test rides on both Saturdays. Overnight loans will be Thu-Fri, Sun-Mon, and Tu-Wed; to ease logistics with the library, pick-up will be before 10 am, returns after 5 pm. Linda will circulate the volunteer schedule to committee members and previous borrowers.
 - E. Eat Low & Local: Linda has done 3 list serv posts on the climate connections of food and highlighting four Norwich-based farms (Crossroad, Hogwash, Honey Field, Sweetland). Two people have responded via an online sign-up form; she will post for 5 more weeks.
 - F. Report on alternatives to FF generators at Town buildings: combined with the next topic.
 - G. Energy Coordinator Committee report
 - Last and next year’s work summary: The Committee reviewed a summary of work by IREC Geoff Martin for the current FY and a draft list of priorities for his work for the next FY. There was discussion about getting Geoff integrated with Town staff. The Committee agreed to finalize the priority-work list at its April meeting, to send to the Town Manager, along with a recommendation of a Committee member for the IREC Steering Committee. Linda noted her interest in serving one additional year in this position; there was agreement to wait until 2022 appointments to the Committee are complete, to make this recommendation.
 - Draft Climate Action Plan for group towns: A Climate Action Plan drafted by Geoff Martin for his seven towns was circulated to Committee members; comments have been forwarded to Geoff. The goal is to gather the seven town energy committees in-person in late May to discuss how to follow up on the

CAP. There was discussion of two dates, 5/24 and 5/26; Aaron will be away that week; no objection to gathering on 5/24 in lieu of the regular monthly meeting. Strong agreement on ensuring that the discussion is structured and productive.

H. UVTMA report: Norm reported that the group continues reorganizing and identifying priorities.

I. Huntley solar canopy: Geoff Martin is working on this, in touch with both Brie Swenson (Rec Director) and Rod Francis (Town Manager).

3. Other business, new projects, announcements

J. Article 36 task force update: Aaron reported that the task force report is awaiting guidance from the Selectboard.

K. Better Places Vermont Crowdfunding site – <https://www.patronicity.com/betterplacesvt>: Norm has gotten preliminary information. How the Committee might pursue this opportunity not immediately clear; agreement for members to read through the resources on the web site, for discussion in April.

4. Public comment and correspondence: None.

5. Adjourned at 8:20

The fourth Tuesday in April will be 4/26.

submitted by Linda Gray