

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 4/26/22, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz, Brad Wible
Guests: Linda Cook, Rob Gere

1. The 3/22 minutes and 4/26 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Updates on existing projects

A. Electrify Everything: Charlie Lindner is continuing weekly list serv posts, highlighting different points to reach different audiences. Discussion and agreement to pursue in-person outreach again, at Dan & Whit's and the transfer station, in June. Discussion about "hooks" to engage residents, such as EVs or electric equipment to show; and avoiding direct promotion of specific businesses.

B. Window Dressers: Linda reported that measuring visits will get underway in May; white frames are available this year; and outreach at the Haven, Family Place, and area food pantries is being done, in collaboration with the Hartford-Hartland build.

C. April EV event in Norwich: Agreement that the event was a success, with 30+ EVs shown, e-bike demonstrations, many serious conversations. Support for further collaboration with neighboring town committees on future projects.

D. eBike loans for 2022: Norwich dates are 5/11-24; only 7 of 20 overnight slots are still open, lots of slots for the Saturday test rides are available; committee members can sign up via a Google spreadsheet; taking an idea from other towns, Linda is arranging a "demo day" on Tuesday, 5/24 ,for Town and MCS staff.

E. Eat Low & Local: the promotion has ended; there were at least a few inquiries direct to the committee.

F. Energy Coordinator Committee report

- Last and next year's work summary: no changes to the drafts, agreement to send them to the Town Manager, along with a recommendation for Linda Gray to serve on the IREC Steering Committee for the next FY. Linda indicated her interest in serving for one additional year.
- Draft Climate Action Plan for group towns: the seven town energy committees will gather in-person 5/26 5-7 pm at the Pavilion at Huntley Meadow to discuss how to follow up on the CAP. The discussion will focus on the actions that lend themselves to multi-town collaboration.
- Linda reported that energy coordinator Geoff Martin is working with Town Manager Rod Francis on an analysis of heating options for Tracy Hall and the DPW building, and development of an RFP for solar canopies at the Huntley parking lot.

G. UVTMA report: there's been no meeting.

H. Huntley solar canopy: covered above.

I. Farmers Market solar canopy: Aaron noted a suggestion from resident Liz Blum for solar canopies at the Norwich Farmer's Market; the NEC can help with information and contacts if the Co-op wants to pursue; Erich's previous work experience makes him a good potential advisor if they are interested.

J. Better Places Vermont Crowdfunding site: Norm reported that his idea relating to electric mowing equipment is not a good fit for this; however, Steve Wisbaum (founder of MowElectric <http://mowelectric.org/>) is enthusiastic for a different approach. Agreement to be sure to raise this at the 5/26 discussion of joint town efforts.

3. Other business, new projects, announcements: the committee received an invitation to an in-person workshop in Berlin, VT, on 5/11, on "the opportunities and challenges for regulatory agencies—especially public utility commissions—implementing lasting and equitable climate solutions in Vermont." Some members have conflicts; others will review the invitation.

4. Public comment and correspondence: None.

5. Adjourned at 8:40

The fourth Tuesday in May will be 5/24, two days before the joint meeting on 5/26, and Aaron will be away. Agreement to aim to meet on the fifth Tuesday, 5/31, if OK with Town Zoom scheduling.

submitted by Linda Gray