

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 2/22/22, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz
Guests: Linda Cook, Neil Fulton, Rob Gere, Mary Gorman, Steve Gorman, Pam Smith, Brad Wible

1. The 1/25 minutes and 2/22 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Updates on existing projects

A. Town parcels for solar: same report as last meeting – no town-owned parcels are good prospects. The committee can monitor the work of the Affordable Housing Subcommittee (Planning Commission) and ensure that solar is included in any development proposals. There is also the possibility of solar canopies at the Huntley Meadow parking lot. There was agreement to ask energy coordinator Geoff Martin to coordinate with Town staff and start work on an RFP for solar canopies.

B. Electrify Everything

- Solarize: no updates; Charlie will include solar in future posts for Electrify Everything.
- Electrify Everything checklist: Charlie Lindner is doing weekly list serv posts, directing readers to the NEC web site and; site analytics are good.

C. Window Dressers

- Several Norwich and Hanover organizations and businesses are ordering shop-built inserts.
- for 2022, tentative dates for the Norwich-Hanover community build are 10/14-20, at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College; its bigger space will be useful given the goal of making more (250) inserts.
- COVER and WindowDressers have been put in contact with each other; there may be a dedicated COVER community build.

D. April EV event in Norwich: Aaron reported that he had not heard back from Montshire staff about their proposed April Climate Camp. Linda reported details for an Earth Day EV event – 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. Each town to line up EV drivers, and also e-bike owners. Committee volunteers needed for logistics on 4/23, and Norm’s tent. Discussion about inviting two e-bike businesses (one in Thetford and Norwich) and new EV models from local car dealers. Linda will take this feedback to the organizers from the other towns.

E. eBike loans for 2022: Linda reported Norwich dates are 5/11-24; she’s drafted a schedule based on what Hanover did in 2021, with test rides on both Saturdays, overnight loans Thu-Fri, Sun-Mon, and Tu-Wed. She will circulate the proposed schedule to committee members. Volunteers to be lined up from among NEC members and bike enthusiasts.

F. Eat Low & Local: one of the participating farms contacted Linda about a 2022 promotion; all 4 Norwich-based farms (Crossroad, Hogwash, Honey Field, Sweetland) want to continue; consensus to do another sequence of list-serv promotions for 8 weeks. Suggestion to highlight # of Norwich households that are CSA members.

G. Report on alternatives to FF generators at Town buildings: as follow-up from the January meeting, Geoff Martin contacted Neil Fulton for information on Town requirements for emergency back-up. Neil shared some estimates he’s done that show a high (\$500,000+) cost for batteries to supply power for up

to 3 days, compared to \$75-100,000 for diesel or propane generators. Discussion included the possibilities for a hybrid system, battery prices coming down in a few years, leasing, and the amount of fossil fuel used for emergency power. Geoff Martin is working on a report on this topic.

H. Article 36 task force update: Aaron reported that the task force report is complete, available [online](#), he and Jack Cushman will present to the Selectboard 2/23.

I. UVTMA report: Norm reported that the group is reformulating, now working on both transportation and housing, and may be more active.

J. REC and Clean Heat standard discussion: the letter circulated by Stuart Blood, Thetford, with concerns about details in proposed legislation for a new [Clean Heat Standard](#) and the January presentation by Bill Bender of Solaflect on the “greenwashing” of Vermont’s utility grid raise questions for committee members about ensuring clean electrification. There was agreement to rely on state advocacy groups to track developments and alert us if action is needed.

K. New members needed: Aaron noted that the terms of two members end this spring; Suzanne Leiter is also on the Conservation Commission and doesn’t plan to reapply to the Energy Committee; Charlie Lindner does plan to reapply. Discussion of seeking a student member, and letting likely good contributors know about the committee.

4. Public comment and correspondence: None.

5. Adjourned at 8:10

The fourth Tuesday in March will be 3/22.

submitted by Linda Gray