

Minutes of the meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee  
Tuesday, 1/25/22, 7 pm, at Tracy Hall and via Zoom

Attending: in Tracy Hall – Aaron Lamperti  
via Zoom – Linda Gray, Suzanne Leiter, Charlie Lindner  
Guests: via Zoom – Linda Cook, Rob Gere

1. The 12/14 minutes and 1/25 agenda were approved by consensus.
2. Guest: Bill Bender, Solaflect, presented on whether VT's electricity is really green: "additionality" of renewable generation is key, defined as built with the past 15 yrs; most of Hydro Quebec was built 40 yrs ago; GMP reports show a significant reduction in emissions 2016-2018, yet nothing was changed in how GMP electricity was generated, only in accounting and trading RECs; for the switch to electric heat and transportation to be effective in reducing emissions, the electricity must be carbon-free in fact not just on paper. Bill proposes policies to support solar everywhere in VT, more wind, and EV charging as useful storage; he supports "electrifying everything" *after* the VT electric grid is truly carbon-free. In discussion, committee members pointed out the role of residential solar in electrifying; the utility in reducing many point-sources of fossil fuel emissions; the need to pursue electrifying and reducing grid emissions together.
3. Updates on existing projects
  - A. Town parcels for solar: Linda Gray reported that none of the 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.
  - B. Electrify Everything
    - Solarize: Linda reported that at least 26 solar installations were committed to in 2021, quite a few are 2<sup>nd</sup> installations (residents adding more solar to their property).
    - Electrify Everything checklist: The Home Action Plan and resources are on the NEC web site and Charlie Lindner has begun list serv posts; site analytics indicate that people are looking at these web pages. Charlie will continue posting.
  - C. Window Dressers
    - Linda has contacted several organizations and businesses about shop-built inserts, and put them in touch with Efficiency VT for walk-throughs. She expects orders from several Norwich and Hanover entities.
    - for 2022, Norwich-Hanover will target 250 inserts total; in May WD will schedule the community builds across VT-NH-ME; our build will likely happen sometime in October.
  - D. April EV event in Norwich: Linda will meet next week with reps from Hartford and Thetford energy committees to brainstorm; Aaron noted that a choral group, the VoxStars, is interested in being involved. Aaron passed along some ideas to Montshire staff regarding their proposed April Climate Camp; he will see if they want to pursue any.

E. eBike loans for 2022: Linda reported that the Upper Valley organizing group met earlier that day; the umbrella organization is switching from Local Motion to Vital Communities; the group will set a replacement schedule for the bikes in the fleet; a schedule for 2022 should be drafted by March. There was consensus that Norwich could work with most any proposed scheduling.

F. Article 36 task force update: Aaron reported that the group had been delayed, due to the suspension of meetings in November-December; their next meeting is set for 1/27, at which they hope to finalize their report; it will likely be discussed by the Selectboard at their 2/23 meeting

G. UVTMA report: no report.

H. Sustainable Woodstock small business outreach campaign: Linda reported that this refers to Efficiency VT outreach to local businesses, which she has paired with her outreach to businesses on window inserts.

I. IR camera/Energy audit kit for loan: Aaron reported that COVER has an IR camera (received from SERG) and that he has received permission from COVER staff to borrow it. Discussion about how it ought to be used; agreement that it can't replace a professional audit; it could highlight leakage, or before/after images could have impact.

#### 4. Public comment and correspondence

Correspondence: the letter to the House Energy and Technology Committee, circulated by Stuart Blood of Thetford, conveying concerns about the role of biofuels in a Clean Heat Standard; Aaron and Charlie joined as individuals; no action by the NEC.

Public Comment: Rob Gere noted that the Town needs to make choices on emergency generators, and information would be welcome about battery storage as an alternative or supplement. There was agreement to research the topic, including through Geoff Martin, the shared energy coordinator.

#### 5. Adjourned at 8:15

The fourth Tuesday in February will be 2/22.

submitted by Linda Gray