

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 9/27/22, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz, Brad Wible (7:10)
Guests: Linda Cook, Rob Gere, Garret Heaton (7:10), Eva Rosenbloom (7:10)

1. The 8/23 minutes and 9/27 agenda were approved by consensus.
2. Update on potential candidates to fill two committee vacancies (Aaron Lamperti, resignation; Susan Hardy, death): chair Charlie Lindner noted that Garret Heaton and Eva Rosenbloom are interested and willing to join the NEC; both have submitted their applications for Selectboard appointment. Garret was present and introduced himself.
3. Updates on existing projects
 - A. Electrify Everything: Charlie has posted about the GreenSavingSmart webinar series, and will post on the Button Up series. Linda will add information about both to the NEC web site. The 9/10 outreach at Dan & Whit's went well, with many detailed conversations with residents. For information for renters, one resource is a renter case study in the guide from Rewiring America <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/IRAGuide> The guide is also available on this page of the NEC site <https://norwichenergycommittee.weebly.com/electrify-everything-home-action-plan.html> For information on contractors, discussion about members sharing contractors they've worked with; and the Efficiency VT contractor list (included on this web page, for heat pumps: <https://norwichenergycommittee.weebly.com/heat-pumps.html>)

The next outreach will be 10/22 at the transfer station, with the focus again on the new federal incentives, plus the annual Button Up campaign with Efficiency VT.

B. Window Dressers: The Community Build will be 10/13-19, at the church on Dartmouth campus; almost 75% of volunteer slots are filled; almost 280 inserts to be built. Norm asked about COVER's interest in collaborating with WindowDressers; Linda will forward correspondence to Norm.

C. Energy Coordinator (IREC) report

Linda reported that Geoff Martin's recent Norwich-specific work has included

- following up on problems with the EV charger at Dan & Whit's;
- working with Town Manager Rod Francis and energy consultant Marcus Jones on energy reviews of Tracy Hall and the DPW building.
- Two groups following up on actions prioritized for multi-town collaboration: Climate Action Guidelines / Pledge (a version of our Electrify Everything activities) and Residential Building Energy Standards. Each is meeting next on 10/7; contact Linda for specifics.

Functioning of the Tracy Hall oil boilers has become an emergency; options include renting office space elsewhere; replacing only one of the two boilers. There was general frustration; agreement that a fossil-fuel interim solution is more acceptable if it's tied to a larger, non-fossil fuel plan for Tracy Hall.

D. UVTMA report: Norm Levy reported that at the last meeting there was lots of discussion about e-bikes. Linda noted that she had just heard that the VT incentive money for e-bike purchases, a total of \$92,500, has been used up <https://www.driveelectricvt.com/incentives/vermont-state-incentives#ebikes>

E. Updates on A36 items: none.

4. Other business, new projects announcements: Charlie proposed that, at our November-December meeting, the committee brainstorm about future activities. Suggestions for that session include what items would be useful for outreach giveaways, and whether to meet in person for discussion.

Eva Rosenblum introduced herself.

6. Public comment and correspondence: Linda Cook requested that links be included in the minutes for online resources mentioned during the meeting.

7. Adjourned at 7:55.

The fourth Tuesday in September will be 10/25.

submitted by Linda Gray