

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 5/31/22, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz, Brad Wible (7:30)
Guests: Rob Gere

1. The 4/26 minutes and 5/31 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Updates on existing projects

A. Electrify Everything: Charlie Lindner is continuing weekly list serv posts; there is a steady trickle of inquiries. Charlie has scheduled in-person outreach at the transfer station for Saturday, 6/18, 10 am – 1 pm. Charlie and Aaron can bring EVs; Linda can bring an EV and an e-bike. Printed materials from Drive Electric VT remain from the April event; Linda can ask solar installers for materials as well. Charlie will ask Dan & Whit's about outreach there on Saturday, 7/23, 10-1. There was agreement to focus on weatherization (and maybe solar). Charlie will pursue getting materials from Efficiency VT.

B. Window Dressers: Linda reported that measuring visits are underway, for customers from the 2021 waitlist. The goal for 2022 is to build 250 inserts; preliminary insert orders total 160; leaving "headroom" for about 100. We have agreed to take up to 100 orders from Thetford special-rate customers, with Thetford volunteers measuring them and helping at the Build. Linda asked about a pickup truck to transport the shop-built inserts from the Montpelier area; she will coordinate with Aaron.

C. eBike loans for 2022: Linda noted a slower pace for loan sign-ups, but enthusiastic and serious borrowers (one borrower has already reported purchasing an e-bike). A health emergency for Todd at Cowbell Mobile Bike required some work-arounds, which were successful thanks to a non-committee volunteer, Peter French. Discussion about better scheduling for the automatic loan reminder email, and key vs combination locks. Agreement to continue with the loan program as long as the local group keeps it going and there is continuing interest from borrowers.

D. Energy Coordinator Committee report

- Members of the seven town energy committees gathered 5/26 to discuss actions from a Climate Action Plan that lend themselves to multi-town collaboration. The group discussion elevated two areas of joint action:

- 1) a "Green Guidelines for Residents" program, designed to help people prioritize green purchases (e.g., EVs, heat pumps, weatherization, etc.) / a "Green Buying Pledge" for businesses (in which they would commit to a procurement policy similar to the model town Green Procurement Policy / Organize showcases, where people that have adopted clean technologies (e.g., EVs, heat pumps, solar) or practices (e.g., garden, lawn, or land management) can educate the public about these topics.

- 2) support for increasing compliance with the residential building energy standards (RBES).

- Norm reported that energy coordinator Geoff Martin was able, through his contacts at the Clean Cities Coalition, to arrange for a trial of a commercial-grade electric mower for several towns. Norwich has the mower now, so that staff can evaluate using it. The trial is free; the company will transport the mower to the next town.

- Linda reported that Geoff's work with Town Manager Rod Francis on heating options for Tracy Hall has highlighted the bad condition of one of the oil boilers, such that there's serious concern about whether it can operate next winter. There was discussion about broader issues for the building – ie,

HVAC needs, office reconfiguration. There was consensus in the committee that there should be no further investment in fossil fuel infrastructure for Tracy Hall; other options should be pursued instead.

E. UVTMA report: no report.

F. Huntley solar canopy: no update.

G. Norwich Farmer's Market solar canopies: no update.

3. Other business, new projects, announcements:

- Charlie asked about the status of the recommendations from the Article 36 Task Force. Discussion about the value of highlighting the numerous specific recommendations in the report, for the Town Manager and the Selectboard. Aaron agreed to draft a memo on this.
- Linda asked if other committee members had received the email from Energy Action Network on the results of a May "pre-pitch" discussion; she will forward the email.

4. Public comment and correspondence: None.

5. Adjourned at 8:30

The fourth Tuesday in June will be 6/28.

submitted by Linda Gray