

Norwich Energy Committee Meeting
10/28
Minutes

Attending: Linda Gray, Norm Levy, Rob Sydney, Jonathan Teller-Elsberg

Alan Berolzheimer had let the committee know that he no longer has time to serve as chair, and indicated that, per committee by-laws, the committee needs to choose a new chair, and any other officers as desired, at a meeting. The committee nominated and approved Linda Gray as chair and Norm Levy as vice-chair.

The Solarize Norwich campaign has had solid success, with 40 Norwich residences going solar this year (including participants in an off-site project). The NEC goal for the year was 36. Discussion of follow-up:

- a thank-you email to those who went solar; Linda to send a draft to Norm and Rob for review
- a survey to both solar customers and those who did only a site visit, paralleling the survey questions that Vital Communities used for participants in their Solarize campaign in the spring. We can set up the survey via the free SurveyMonkey option. Linda to send the Vital Comm. versions to Norm and Rob.
- encourage those who have gone solar to talk with their neighbors about (shown to affect solar purchases)
- asking solar homeowners to participate in "case studies"
- organize a "Go Solar" celebration in 2015 for those in Norwich who have gone solar; perhaps ask homeowners to bring a neighbor?

Discussion of submitting for the Valley News calendar an item about a Solaflect info session on their community solar park; consensus is not to submit. Discussion of whether and how to recommend community solar projects to Norwich residents. Linda has highlighted on the listserv that Solaflect does not sell the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) from its community solar, one factor in evaluating such projects. Options for action include organizing a presentation by all the community solar developers operating in GMP territory and posing the questions we ID as most important (perhaps in conjunction w/ other energy committees). Or, going through a vetting process and identifying 1-2 developers to actually endorse to Norwich residents.

Weatherize Norwich plans:

- 10/29 presentation at library, on audits (HEAT Squad), heat pumps (ARC Mechanical), and solar (Norwich Technologies and Solaflect)
- 11/4 info table outside Tracy Hall, with Efficiency VT and HEAT Squad literature; Norm/Linda in the morning, Rob/Sarah/Linda in the afternoon
- 12/9 SERG presentation on energy financing options, at the Montshire
- January campaign w/ postcard mailing promoting HEAT Squad energy audits, linked with contractor discount for work during Mar-April slow period
- ID winter locations where people gather -- Winter Farmer's Market? Norwich churches?
- see if other local groups (Boy Scout troop, HHS environmental students) would help with volunteer activities.

Community forum on Eff VT: Sarah, Norm and Linda plan to carpool to Brattleboro for the 11/6 forum.

- The VECAN conference (for energy committee members from around the state) will be Sat, Dec 6, at the Lake Morey Resort. Registration fee is usually about \$25, includes lunch.

Minutes submitted by Linda Gray.