

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 6/27, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Linda Gray, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy  
Guests: Bill Chidsey; Susan Hardy; Becca White, SunCommon

Becca White of SunCommon explained that a complaint before the International Trade Commission threatens to bring about import tariff on solar panels this fall. She noted that many solar installers are stockpiling solar panels. SunCommon is guaranteeing prices to customers who purchase by 8/31; after that date, they will have a 20% price increase.

Two articles on the tariff petition and its impact:

<http://www.seia.org/blog/trade-petition-could-mean-devastation-us-solar>

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/suniva-dispute-could-halt-two-thirds-of-us-solar-installations>

NEC will check with Norwich Technologies and Solaflect to see whether the possibility of the tariff will affect their prices.

Weatherize Upper Valley has wrapped up: 15 Norwich homeowners have committed to home weatherization through this 6-month campaign. This compares well to the average of 13.5 over a full 12 months (2013-15). Vital Communities will organize a post-campaign de-brief soon.

Norm confirmed that NEC received two grants: \$1000 from New England Grassroots Environmental Fund, and \$1000 from the Norwich Women's Club.

The NEGEF award was about 1/3 of the amount applied for, and they did not direct the spending to specific items from the original proposed budget. Agreement to target the printing of 2 banners (one for "Norwich Energy Committee", one for "220 Households Gone Solar") and for a computer projector.

The NWC award will go primarily toward LED bulbs.

Re Solarize 2017, agreement on the proposed schedule of outreach events that Linda circulated. For the July parade, agreement to get the banners (discussed earlier) in time for use in the parade, and to involve 1 truck and 1 trailer with signs/logos of both solar companies involved with Solarize.

A brief review of the Energy Chapter of updated Town Plan ([http://norwich.vt.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/6-TP\\_Text\\_MarkUp\\_6-06-17.pdf](http://norwich.vt.us/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/6-TP_Text_MarkUp_6-06-17.pdf)), starts at p75). Susan raised some questions about the section with energy usage statistics, and would like to propose clearer language.

The next Norwich Energy Committee meeting is Tuesday, 7/25.

submitted by Linda Gray