

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 7/25, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Linda Gray, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy

Guests: Bill Chidsey; Susan Hardy; Maura Adams, Northern Forest Center

** Maura Adams of the Northern Forest Center outlined the work of NFC to build economic and community vitality while fostering forest stewardship across the Northern Forest of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York. They are developing now a program to promote modern wood heat. The emphasis is on using modern wood heat instead of fossil fuels as a "buy local", environmentally sound approach.

Once they have their web materials complete, NFC wants to work in a few communities to market this heating option -- the Upper Valley, central VT, and Ithaca area in NY.

NEC members and volunteers asked questions about the technology (which uses automated wood pellet boilers that are quite common in Europe), and generally were positive about sharing information on the technology as one of several non-fossil heating choices.

** Staffing for the first events of the Solarize 2017 (8/5 at the dump, and 8/8 at Dan & Whit's) campaign was confirmed.

** Brief discussion of possible revisions to the energy stats part of the Town Plan update.

** Linda noted that Planning Director Phil Dechert expects the Planning Commission to confirm the Town's interest in receiving TRORC help on comprehensive energy planning.

** Vital Communities will soon schedule a post-campaign meeting to review Weatherize Upper Valley.

The next Norwich Energy Committee meeting is Tuesday, 8/22.

submitted by Linda Gray