

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 11/28, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy, Jonathan Teller-Elsberg

Guests: Bill Chidsey, Nancy Dennis, Aaron Lamperti

Discussion/updates:

- review of 11/11 UV Button Up: 65 attendees, 29 people pledged on the Community Energy Dashboard, 12 people on the Home Makeover exhibit sign-in sheet, \$252 raised for COVER from the raffle. We hoped for more, but those who attended seemed very serious. General agreement that it is worth it to collaborate with the other towns on events like this.

- enhanced energy planning with TRORC: the first meeting is 12/5; Planning Commission participants are Jeff Goodrich and Jaci Allen; most NEC members will attend; Linda will remind Mary Layton, Selectboard chair, of the meeting date.

-Weatherize 2018: general agreement to pursue; Linda will confirm the availability/interest of the contractors we worked with last winter; Linda and Bill will seek info from EVT re # of Norwich homeowners weatherizing for all of 2017; Linda will confirm with Vital Communities about what files, resources we could use; agreement to target February for the campaign start. Linda will find out details about the Norwich Historical Society talk 1/21 "Energy Retrofits for Old Houses" to see if this talk could be part of Weatherize.

- other updates:

* 2 meetings with state Reps Masland and Briglin = 12/6, 7 pm, Norwich library, preview of 2018 legislative session; and 12/7, 5:30, Thetford Center Community Center, energy discussion

* the ESSEX plan is the latest proposal for a carbon pollution tax; details at this link:

https://www.seventhgeneration.com/sites/default/files/the_essex_plan_for_ean_-_final_-_11.06.171.pdf_copy.pdf

* Climate Economy Model Communities program

main web page is <http://www.vtrural.org/model-communities> info on Middlebury's follow-up activities is at <http://www.vtrural.org/programs/model-communities/middlebury/rm-day>

Linda proposed NOT pursuing this right now (with energy planning and Weatherize in the works), but we can meet with the program staff person, and perhaps work with other towns on transportation with some help from Vital Communities.

* Vt Climate Pledge Coalition: the Norwich Conservation Commission has agreed to join the NEC in recommending that the Selectboard join this Coalition (via a resolution); Linda will ask the Planning Commission to join as well, then get it on an upcoming Selectboard agenda.

* discussion of organizing a "Repair Cafe" as described in this

article <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/repair-cafes-aim-to-save-broken-items-enhance-community/Content?oid=10441877>

General interest in this and in maybe playing a role in reviving separate collection of recyclable cans and bottles; no specific action now.

* HEAT Squad is seeking state funding to work throughout Vermont, not just certain counties, and would benefit from supporting comments (by 12/1). Linda will email details to NEC members.

* Bill noted that air-to-water heat pumps that can be retrofitted to existing baseboard hot water heating systems may soon have a rebate from EVT.

Discussion of whether to recommend programs that offer clean electricity through the purchase of RECs to Norwich residents who can't directly install solar. Further research needed; Norm will find out more about the "Greener GMP" program.

Because of the holiday, agreement to schedule the next Norwich Energy Committee meeting on Thursday, 12/21. Submitted by Linda Gray