

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 7/24, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Aaron Lamperti, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy

Discussion of follow-up items from 6/27 Selectboard meeting included that the Selectboard is asking committees to provide quarterly reports on their activities, which Linda Gray will do; and that there was interest in developing some data on energy-conservation spending and benefits for Town facilities.

On implementing battery recycling at Transfer Station once/month, Norm Levy and Jack Cushman will follow up initially. They will confirm with Ham Gillett of GUVSWMD on the routines for packaging and shipping batteries and with Transfer Station staff (Paul Albee) on the set-up for collecting the batteries. Once details are set, the NEC will publicize, since all agreed that there's been some confusion about whether batteries go into trash or have a recycling location.

Re ongoing projects...

* Solarize - after discussion, there was consensus to continue working with the 2 Norwich-based installers, Solaflect and Norwich Solar Technologies, since they are local, have provided good customer service and good prices. Since Norwich residents are free to pick other solar installers and do so, the Solarize campaigns are not creating a monopoly for them. Norwich Solar Technologies has provided prices for 2018, which are less than last year; they have both on-site and off-site options. Solaflect pricing is equivalent to 2017 on a per-kWh basis (somewhat higher price, with higher electricity production); no off-site option.

For the campaign, agreement on August-September for the time period, and to concentrate on "tabling" at the transfer station and at D&W, ~3 times in August and ~3 times in September. From our very good experience last fall, we will offer free LEDs as a draw for people to talk with us. Agreement to find a good online calculator to link to, and to add to our Pricing web pages estimates on how solar will replace a utility bill.

Agreement to try out workshop events that people sign up for, at which they can get individualized estimates on solar and on financing. Mascoma Bank and VSECU have specific solar loans; we can check with other lenders as well.

* Weatherize and Button Up option this fall - interest in pursuing this; Rob Gere and Linda Gray will both call in to the Efficiency VT conference call on 8/8 to get more information.

* Transportation - Susan Hardy is attending the monthly meetings of the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association, and is hoping to meet with Bethany Fleishman and Paige Heverly of Vital Communities to discuss further regional collaboration on transportation.

* Tracy Hall energy improvements - Aaron Lamperti and Linda Gray will ask to meet with Town Manager Herb Durfee, to review the 2010 audit and determine if follow-up is needed.

* "Utilities 101" - Norm Levy has proposed a panel on this topic for the December VECAN conference, and is pursuing a possible additional contact.

On Thursday 7/26 there will be a joint meeting of those working on Enhanced Energy Planning in Norwich, Thetford, and Strafford, to share approaches on siting renewable energy generation projects.

Updates: the Committee has received a \$1100 NWC grant, which will go primarily toward purchasing LED bulbs for distribution.

The next Enhanced Energy Workgroup meeting is Tuesday, 9/4, 7 pm, Tracy Hall; the next Norwich Energy Committee meeting is on Tuesday, 9/25, 7 pm, Tracy Hall.

submitted by Linda Gray