

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 8/28, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

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

Re battery recycling at Transfer Station, Norm Levy and Jack Cushman have packed up the batteries, using all the boxes that were available. Transfer Station staff (Paul Albee) will get more boxes, and to collect batteries staff are using a metal wagon stationed near the most-used recycling area. Norm and Jack will continue on this task; no need for other NEC members to take a shift, for now.

Re Transportation, Susan provided a summary of her discussions with Vital Communities staff who work with the VC Transportation Program, including the Upper Valley Transportation Management Association.. Susan has this list of suggestions for actions:

- \* best to start with promoting existing options as Norm is doing with AT e-mails
- + also real time app for bus routes/locations
- + emergency ride home
- + [Go! Vermont \(www.connectingcommuters.org\)](http://www.connectingcommuters.org), carpool and vanpool matching website (for regular commuting, one-time trips, and ridesharing to a conference, party, or other large event)
- + google maps can plan an AT trip
- \* Norwich Times article and/or ad for more outreach re transportation alternatives ??
- \* carpools: promote neighborhood pools, school pools. How to do it?
- \* bike skills workshops. most participants are women; maybe get Norwich Women's Club interested?
- \* more bike racks
- \* alternative transportation challenges?
- \* next bike-to-school day. expand on this?
- \* SH contact Mr. Bill about other possible school initiatives in promoting safe routes to school; getting parent interested? (maybe aiming to more protected bike ways)
- \* see also <http://vitalcommunities.org/transportation/towns/> for additional strategies

Susan is trying to meet with Town Manager Herb Durfee to let him know that she is attending UVTMA meetings on behalf of the Energy Committee (not planning dept.) and to find out if the new town planner will replace Phil Dechert as the official Norwich rep. In discussion, these additional ideas were suggested: investigating a Zip Car for Norwich village <https://www.zipcar.com/>; same for the Dartmouth's Bike Share program (50 bikes located across campus at 9 bike stations) via <https://www.zagster.com/>; same for more bike stands in the village area.

Re Solarize, there have been 3 outreach sessions (2 at Dan & Whit's, 1 at the dump), and the progress-meter green and gold strips are on the CITGO pole with some signage. 16 installations committed to so far in 2018; we have now 25 prospects (including 5 online requests for site visits), plus there are 12 households who are serious enough to have had Solaflect file for CPGs, but have not yet committed financially. Committee members will make follow-up contacts as needed in October. The library has been lined up as a location for 9/9 and 9/20 for the new one-on-one consultation sessions. The solar installers are lined up; at a minimum, financing literature will be available, and maybe staff from Mascoma Bank and from VSECU.

Re Weatherize and Button Up this fall, Efficiency VT will coordinate a program modeled on the Vital Communities "Weatherize" program that Norwich has participated in for 2 years. Linda has submitted an application to Efficiency VT on behalf of Norwich. EVT is calling this program Button Up Hero. The expectation is that we would hold a kick-off event (mostly a meet-and-greet with the contractors) in or by the third week of October and this could be in conjunction with other towns. The free walk-throughs by contractors will take place from mid-December through March; the contractors will finish their work from January through April. NEC volunteers will have the task of following up with homeowners after they receive their quotes.

EVT will manage contacts with the contractors; provide promotional materials, including the homeowner profile (just 1 page), lawn signs, tabletop posters, display weatherization kits, and freebies; and do publicity (FaceBook and local newspapers). They will have another conference call in September, and hold workshops the first week of October.

Re Tracy Hall energy improvements, Aaron Lamperti and Linda Gray met with Town Manager Herb Durfee, and got his approval to proceed with further research. Aaron will confirm exactly which recommendations from the 2010 audit have been done; Linda is checking with Efficiency VT on whether a new audit should be done and whether EVT has a deep-retrofit program for municipal buildings.

Re "Utilities 101", Norm Levy received an informative response to his contact with the Regulatory Assistance Project, in Montpelier <https://www.raonline.org/>. They provided these links:

-- general guidebook on Electricity Regulation in the US: <https://www.raonline.org/knowledge-center/electricity-regulation-in-the-us-a-guide-2/>

-- a series of presentations from a three-day public symposium in Montpelier in 2015 – a good Vermont-specific set of resources:

<https://www.raonline.org/knowledge-center/foundations-of-energy-regulation/>

<https://www.raonline.org/knowledge-center/electricity-in-vermont/>

<https://www.raonline.org/knowledge-center/the-power-sector-of-the-future/>

A RAP staffer might be able to meet with us if we can include other area energy committees in the gathering. There was agreement to pursue this.

The next Enhanced Energy Workgroup meeting is Tuesday, 9/4, 7 pm, Tracy Hall; the next Norwich Energy Committee meeting is on Tuesday, 9/18, 7 pm, Tracy Hall. [NOTE: a week earlier than usual]

submitted by Linda Gray