

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 4/23, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

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

The remaining calendar for Solarize Norwich 2019 (April-May) was reviewed, and volunteers confirmed for events and outreach. Events are the wine tasting/solar mixer at Norm's on 4/26 and one at Suzanne Leiter's on 5/17; outreach at D&W and the dump also still scheduled. 1/3 of the solar project on the Cook property is confirmed for homeowners, so that will move forward; Norwich Solar Technologies will complete the remaining 2/3 with larger users.

Re Town fossil fuel use, the next step will be the Town Manager finalizing a Request for Qualifications for an energy performance contractor. Linda expects he will have time for this project after getting out the RFP for the electrician for the EV charging station. Aaron Lamperti will review the summary of fuel use by Town buildings; Linda Gray will ask Finance Director Roberta Robinson if she has information compiled on fuel use by Town vehicles.

Vital Communities has contacted the NEC about organizing Curb Your Car Day again, for 5/17. We are still very occupied with Solarize events on 5/17 and 5/18, so the discussion was on others who might volunteer on 5/17 morning -- perhaps the Lions, or a HHS student group? Linda has a gift card from King Arthur Flour to purchase some muffin mixes. Susan Hardy will outline these options to Vital Communities; Linda will ask the Lions about volunteering, Rob Gere will ask the HHS group.

To make biking easier and more reliable, Susan has coordinated with the Recreation Department about adding a bike rack, fix-it station, and air pump at Huntley Meadows. Norm Levy is writing up a grant application to the Norwich Women's Club for this project. In addition, through Vital Communities, the NEC will be able to make 2 e-bikes available for borrowing during the month of August. In other such loan programs, 25% of borrowers end up buying an e-bike. Susan will coordinate the details for this program.

Another, future grant source is VNRC's Small Grants for Smart Growth: <https://vnrc.org/programs/sustainable-communities/small-grants-for-smart-growth/>

Re Weatherize, Efficiency VT has sent Linda Gray an updated summary of homeowner contacts. There was some gap in getting homeowner names to the contractors, so EVT is helping with free walk-throughs. There was a big response to the program, follow-up is still underway. Linda will keep in touch with homeowners.

On the EV charging station at the Huntley parking lot, the Town Manager is finalizing the RFP for the electrical installation work. Work on the concrete pad for the EVSE and the bike items could be combined.

The committee confirmed by consensus participation in a letter to legislators on net-metering access, organized by Renewable Energy Vermont. The letter specifically asks that the legislature 1) remove the customer cap limitation on net metering; 2) enable customers to participate in more than one net metering group; and 3) reduce permitting costs for projects on preferred locations.

The enhanced energy planning working group will meet one last time on 5/7, to review the next version of the draft energy chapter. After this, further discussion will be by participating in Planning Commission meetings.

Updates:

- Linda is working with Phoebe Howe at EVT on outreach to rental unit owners; Phoebe will attend the meeting in May
- David Lemal of the Norwich Lions Club contacted Linda to let us know of their interest in helping with local action on climate issues
- the UV Energy Roundtable is 5/7; Susan Hardy will attend, other members will be at the EEP mtg
- the preferred site designation for the Norwich Farmers Market location is on the Selectboard agenda for 5/8; agreement that further discussion is needed on this process, so that the guidance language in the Town Plan is clear.
- Norm suggested that the NEC consider buying 30-40 reusable trash bags <https://www.planetwiseinc.com/planet-wise-reusable-trash-bag.html> as give-aways; he will bring some to the next meeting.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 5/28/19.

submitted by Linda Gray