

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 6.25, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Susan Hardy, Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner

Guests: Linda Cook (left ~8:15); David Lemal, Norwich Lions

David Lemal asked for time to describe an activity that he's creating for the Norwich Fair, a stationary bike on which the rider can compare the energy required to light up an LED bulb vs. an incandescent bulb. He asked if NEC members could help staff this activity during the Fair, and at least 4 members indicated yes. In addition, Norm's tent can be set up to provide cover. The NEC has info sheets about LED bulbs which can be edited for use during the Fair. David will email to confirm arrangements and a schedule for staffing.

Election of officers: Linda Gray was approved as chair, Norm Levy as vice chair. Linda encouraged other members to consider serving as officers.

Status and planning for ongoing projects:

- * Solarize Norwich 2019 results: 23 households have committed to new or additional solar; 28 other households remain on the list of prospects; Linda will check in with the installers for final numbers next week

- * Transportation - the NEC was awarded a grant from the Norwich Women's Club for \$2,238 in support of the e-bike loan program (set for August), and bike racks and a fix-it station for Huntley Meadows. Susan Hardy will follow up on the details of purchase, installation, and implementation. Linda reminded the committee of the UV EV Expo scheduled for Sept 14; she created a page on the Expo in the NEC website and did a "save the date" post to the list serv.

- * Weatherize - the EVT letter to rental unit owners was mailed 6/13; at least one owner has responded.

- * EV charging station - electrical installation bids are due 7/19.

- * 5% reduction in Town fossil fuel use - Linda and Aaron will meet with the Town Manager to pursue a Request for Qualifications for an energy performance contractor. Linda will circulate a presentation on the work of Sustainable Hanover on metrics for their 100% renewable by 2050 goal.

Updates:

- * Norwich Lions Club - the NEC will not do a separate booth at fair in July; is interested in participating in the parade in Sept.

- * Energy Action Network is seeking grant funding for town energy coordinators for some unknown # of towns; Linda has confirmed interest from the Thetford Energy Comm in possibly sharing a position, and NEC members have shared ideas on tasks. Linda will keep tabs on the grant.

- * Town Plan - next mtg of Planning Commission is June 27.

- * No schedule is posted yet on the PUC web site for workshops on proposed changes to net-meter rules.

- * Linda urged NEC members to subscribe to community energy list serv for relevant but non-NEC info communityenergy-subscribe@lists.vitalcommunities.org

* A webinar reviewing the 2019 VT legislative session is available at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2110840623454185992>

Discussion of the new "20% for 2020" challenge:

* Charlie Lindner has spoken with one of the parade organizers, who is enthusiastic about the 20/2020 Challenge; perhaps the parade can serve as a kick-off event for the Challenge?

* Charlie will meet with MCS principal Bill Hammond, who is also enthusiastic about the Challenge.

* Rob Fish at Energy Action Network has confirmed that we can use the Energy Dashboard for a checklist (online and printed) and a pledge form (online and printed).

* on the question of how detailed the Challenge metrics must be, and how to measure the 20% reduction, suggestions were to develop a checklist of actions with rough estimates of the % reductions and/or highlight on the checklist the actions with the most impact.

* for businesses, the NEC could facilitate consultations with Efficiency VT.

* the NEC could print a window decal or sticker ("Pledged 20% for 2020") for both households and businesses.

* for those who pledge, we could develop resource lists.

* with participants who take the metrics seriously, we can produce Success Stories for NEC web site.

NEC members to review various online carbon calculators to ID the ONE that we should link to:

<https://www.c2es.org/content/calculate-your-carbon-footprint/>

CarbonFootprint.com

<https://www.terrapass.com/carbon-footprint-calculator>

<https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator>

<https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/>

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/consider-your-impact/carbon-calculator/>

This list of ways to reduce your carbon footprint looked useful; NEC members to review others as well:

<https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2018/12/27/35-ways-reduce-carbon-footprint/>

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 7/23/19.

submitted by Linda Gray