

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 8/27, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner

Guests: Margery Cantor, Erich Rentz

Climate Emergency initiative -- Margery Cantor explained that the Climate Emergency/Citizen's Assembly is working on a plan to have 10-12 towns this fall declare a Climate Emergency around the same time. They are targeting a fairly diverse group, both income-wise and geographically. The group also plans to organize a rally at the start of the legislative session in January, hoping for attendance by 3.5% of the population of Vermont. Margery provided some sample resolutions declaring a Climate Emergency, and there was discussion of how to proceed. Agreement to draft a short, concise resolution and target the Selectboard meeting on 9/25 for consideration. The Hartford Energy Commission was to discuss this at their meeting last week; Linda will ask about the conclusions of their discussion.

- Status and planning for ongoing projects:

- \* Transportation - the e-bike loan program is going very well, with all the long borrowing slots booked immediately after the first announcement and the drop-in slots on Wednesdays attracting good numbers. Staffing for the last two Wednesdays was confirmed. The bike rack is due to be delivered; the fix-it station is in hand; the installation schedule will be coordinated with installation of the EV charging station. Reminder: UV EV Expo will be Sept 14 and will feature both electric cars and bikes.

- \* Weatherize - for this year's Button Up campaign, participating towns will have the opportunity to offer free home energy visits by Efficiency Vermont staff. VECAN will present a webinar on September 4 at noon; Linda will circulate the sign-up email.

- \* EV charging station - Cummings Electric was selected as the installation contractor; the Town Manager and director of Public Works are scheduling the installation work.

- \* 5% reduction in Town fossil fuel use - the Town Manager is in the process of contracting with Energy Efficient Investments, a mid-sized performance contractor that focuses on energy efficient and renewable solutions, for reviews of the Town facilities and the library. There will be no cost unless the Town decides to pursue their recommendations.

- \* Town Plan - Linda noted that the Policies/Goals/Actions in the May draft of energy chapter are not complete, and will circulate a revised draft. When the NEC has a satisfactory draft, it can provide it to Rod Francis and the Planning Commission.

- "20% in '20" challenge: discussion of graphics and printed materials; Linda estimated about \$300 to print a banner, sandwich boards, and stickers, plus \$60 for yarn to "yarnbomb" the posts of the bandstand. Printing the proposed Checklist of actions would be additional. Review of the checklist info and sources for the calculations. The parade and activities on the green on Saturday 9/21 will be the opening of the campaign. Lined up for the parade are trucks with solar panels from both Solaflect and Norwich Solar, electric cars, a squad of bikes, and a small Advance Transit bus (with family riders). Each can have signs stating the CO2 saved, from the Checklist calculations. Activities/materials for on the green include solar-baked cookies with

Solaflect, a group of e-bikes and their owners, the big How Solar Are We? map from last spring's Solarize campaign, solar panels from Norwich Solar, and lots of printed info (Button Up, 20in20 Checklist, AT schedules). David Lemal's bike to power up LED and incandescent bulbs may be available. Agreement to install the yarnbomb without explanation the week prior, and raise curiosity about what it means via list serv posts.

- FY 20-21 budget request - agreement that Linda should submit a request for \$1500, the same amount the NEC has been allocated since FY 15-16.

- Updates:

\* Possible staff energy coordinator - Linda summarized that there are no sources of grant funding, such a position would have to be paid for by the towns that collaborate. There are two proposals for a multi-town collaboration: 1) working through the regional planning commission (position would be TRORC staff, cost about \$120,000) or 2) via an Interlocal Contract among participating towns (position would be staff of the Contract, cost about \$80,000). An important consideration is how many towns should 1 staff position serve. 2-3 would mean higher cost/town but more focus/town. A total of 7 towns have been asked to consider the TRORC version.

- Other business - the 20in20 challenge encompasses existing NEC work on ButtonUp, Solarize, and transportation. Given that changes in food consumption are significant for CO2 reduction, there was agreement to add some activities on food; further discussion and planning to be on the September agenda. Aaron suggested that we also consider adding an "electrify everything" effort to lay out the connections among solar, heat pumps, and EVs, and help residents understand the problems with investing in fossil-fuel equipment.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 9/24/19.

submitted by Linda Gray