

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 9/24, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner
Guest: Erich Rentz

Many boxes of cookie mix, donated by King Arthur Flour to the EV Expo, were left over after that event. Linda took them to give out on 9/21 on the green; has 10 still. Agreement to retain 3 for future events, and donate the rest to Solaflect for their "solar cookie" baking.

Climate Emergency initiative: the resolution to declare a Climate Emergency will be considered by the Selectboard at its 10/9 meeting; at its meeting on 9/26, the Planning Commission will consider joining the Energy Committee in recommending it to the Selectboard.

There was agreement that Norm would post a notice on the list serv promoting National Solar Tour (early October).

Transportation: the e-bike loan program in August attracted 50+ test-riders, the EV Expo on 9/14 attracted ~500 people; the EV charging station, bike racks, fix-it station are scheduled for installation shortly. Agreement to look for opportunities to do the e-bike loan program again in the spring.

Aaron will follow up with the Town Manager on the status of contracting with Energy Efficient Investments for reviews of the Town facilities and the library. With 3 new solar projects coming online since July (45 kW at Starlake, 150 kW off Union Village Rd., and 500 kW on the Fire District land off Rte 5) Linda is seeing to arrange a tour of them for the Selectboard and Planning Commission in early October.

Solaflect has revised its billing to the Town, due to higher than projected production. Linda and Herb Durfee will meet with Solaflect staff to review the calculations; Linda will share the spreadsheets with Erich and Aaron for their review too.

In this year's Button Up campaign, participating towns will have the opportunity to offer free home energy visits by Efficiency Vermont staff. EVT staff have 70 visit slots available in Dec-Jan for Windsor Co. towns; there are 8 towns in Windsor Co. participating in Button Up, which is 8-9 free visits/town if spread evenly across the towns. Linda discussed with Becca White, the EVT manager for Button Up, encouraging Norwich residents to sign up for a free phone consultation with EVT staff, who could "triage" residents -- recommending a HEAT Squad audit for some, going directly to a contractor for others, and the free EVT home visit for some. The sign-up would be through the NEC web site, so that the NEC can track interest. There was support for taking this approach.

EVT staff can also do a Button Up workshop, available now in November. There was agreement to seek to arrange a joint workshop with Hartford and Sharon. Linda will follow up. Agreement for Aaron to ask to have a table at the Fire Station on Halloween.

"Save 20% in '20" challenge:

- a vinyl banner, vinyl signs, and 200 copies of the Checklist have been printed and were used at the bandstand and in the parade; they can be used with future tabling.

Future printing can include

sandwich boards and stickers to give participants.

- Discussion of how to set up an online form for people to report their pledges and actions; Google Forms (free) and Form Stack (\$20/mo) are options; caution to thoroughly test their function prior to making the form public.

- Agreement to promote weatherize, solarize, and transportation efforts as ways to meet the 20in20 challenge. Linda and Charlie will work together to develop list serv posts.

- Brief discussion of what type of food event might work well; suggestion to contact both Willing Hands and King Arthur Flour.

- Linda will move the yarnbomb pieces to new locations, with signs explaining the climate strips, to keep them fresh as visuals.

Town Plan: The Planning Commission will review the current drafts of several chapters of the Town Plan at their 9/26 meeting. It does not reflect revisions to the Goals / Policies / Actions section that Linda circulated in August. Agreement that Linda will email to Rod Francis to clarify that we have revisions to Goals / Policies / Actions and to the [referred siting language, including Aaron and Charlie in the thread.

Discussion of the recent PUC procedural order in its net-meter rulemaking, in which it asks for comments by 10/18 on various questions. The ones most relevant to our work are about preferred siting. Linda will forward the email on this to the committee; no consensus on Committee comments.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 10/22/19.

submitted by Linda Gray