

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 10/22, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

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

Updates on "Save 20% in '20" challenge:

- Linda has had contacts with additional members of the Norwich Congregational Church, who are 1) advertising the Button Up workshop 11/1 and 2) interested in knitting "climate stripes" scarves (hoping they will become widespread and recognized)
- several Unitarian congregations are planning a joint climate-focused event on Jan 11; it may be suitable for promoting 20in20; Linda expects to get more details as they are set
- copies of the checklist are at Dan & Whit's checkout counters, and at the library
- Charlie will follow up with a contact at MCS to see if the 20in20 challenge can be introduced/promoted in the school
- Norm is following up on several contacts for future food-related events; perhaps classes relating to vegetarian cooking and cooking to lessen food waste?
- Suzanne and Linda will select additional resources about local food to add to the web site; perhaps future promotion of local farms and CSAs?

Update on transportation:

- the EV charging station, bike racks, and fix-it station have been installed; we will ask Susan to confirm that all bills are in, and Norm can prepare a grant report for the Norwich Women's Club
- agreement to schedule a celebration + EV show-n-tell for a Saturday or Sunday in early November (or even Veteran's Day Monday). Suggestions to include a bike repair workshop and invite the NWC (as funder of the bike infrastructure) to participate and publicize
- the idea of establishing an Upper Valley e-bike loan program is gaining support

For Button Up, Norwich is piggybacking on the Efficiency VT workshop scheduled for 11/1 in WRJ by the Hartford Energy Commission. Charlie will post several more times to the list serv, highlighting the workshop and phone consultations with EVT. Permission is confirmed for NEC to have a table at the Fire Station on Halloween; KAF cookies and Button Up info will be served. Linda learned of an effort by EVT to work with businesses, and will see if NEC can encourage this at an upcoming meeting of the Norwich Business Council. Linda will email the Norwich residents from last winter/spring to alert them to follow-up options.

The website for Window Dressers program <https://windowdressers.org/> was reviewed, and there was agreement to learn more: Charlie will follow up with one of the Thetford people involved, and NEC members will aim to participate in the Thetford activities in January to understand how the program works. This might be a program that the Norwich Lions Club would collaborate on.

On the energy review of Town facilities (and the library), the energy performance contractor, Energy Efficient Investments, has done walk-throughs of Tracy Hall, the

fire/police station, the Town Garage, and the library. They have received building plans and summaries of fuel and electricity consumption. The target is for them to have recommendations ready to present to the Selectboard on 11/20, meeting with the Town Manager and NEC members a week in advance.

For the energy chapter of the Town Plan draft, Charlie, Aaron, and Linda met with Planning Director Rod Francis to review language on preferred siting and on Policies/Goals/Actions. The Planning Commission meets on 10/24 and 11/14; Aaron and Charlie will try to attend.

With 3 new solar projects in Norwich (45 kW at Starlake, 150 kW off Union Village Rd., and 500 kW on the Fire District land off Rte 5) Linda has arranged two tour times for the Selectboard and Planning Commission:

Monday, 10/28, 4:15 - 5:30, and Wednesday, 10/30, 5-6. NEC members can participate if interested.

As follow-up to the article from the 2019 Town Meeting, requiring Town operations to reduce fossil fuel use, Aaron will update the data that he compiled as a baseline, to support a progress report for the 2020 Town Meeting.

Upcoming events:

- the VECAN conference (statewide network of energy committees) will be 12/7 at the Lake Morey Resort; the registration fee can be reimbursed from the NEC budget.
- Aaron will be the NEC rep to a Town of Hartford brainstorming session on 11/8 "to generate ideas to create transformative change in our local energy system...[that may] lead to one or more successful applications for funding from [VLITE](#)"
- Linda will be the NEC rep to a Sustainable Woodstock Green Drinks planning meeting on 12/5

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 11/19/19 (early, due to the Thanksgiving holiday).

submitted by Linda Gray