Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 1/28/20, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Aaron Lamperti, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner
Guests: Mickey Elsberg, Fred Carter, Pam Piper, Erich Rentz, Valerie Rooney

Status reports on ongoing projects:
   * The climate group at the Norwich Congregational Church is hosting a presentation by Jack Cushman 2/23, to convey in layman's terms the most recent reports on the climate crisis, accompanied by a panel from 4 local towns on local climate actions. There was consensus for the Norwich Energy Committee to cosponsor and help publicize.
   * "20% for 2020" challenge: Charlie Lindner has just begun promoting pledges via list serv posts, will do more, and Linda Gray is arranging for 20 or so yard signs (for placement along busy roads); Norm Levy and Charlie presented to the Norwich Business Council earlier in the month, and this generated an invitation to present at St. Barnabas Church.
   * Transportation - Linda reported that an UV-based e-bike lending library will be in place for 2020, so the NEC can plan on running that program again, and with more contacts with the bike borrowers. Fred Carter suggested arranging for public locations (regular outlets) for bike re-charging. Susan Hardy reviewed notes from the most recent meeting of the UV Transp. Management Association, highlighting the Transportation Toolkit
https://vitalcommunities.org/transportation/towntransportationtoolkit-a/
   * Weatherize - Efficiency VT has compiled a report on the 2019 Button Up campaign
https://buttonupvermont.org/sites/default/files/buttonup-2019-community-report.pdf
Linda noted that there were 57 sign-ups for home energy visits from the 9 Windsor County towns, 13 from Norwich (23% of the county total). At the February meeting, the NEC will discuss the Window Dressers https://windowdressers.org/. Doc Bagley from the Strafford Energy Committee will attend to explain the program's logistics; David Lemal of the Lion's Club will attend to get information for possible involvement by the Lions.
   * 5% reduction in Town fossil fuel use - Aaron Lamperti and Linda are working on public info sessions about the facilities energy proposal. Sessions are scheduled for Sunday, 2/23, 2 pm at the Congregational Church, and Thursday, 2/27, 6:30 pm at the library. A web page that compiles all related files is in process. Aaron and Linda are working with the energy consultant on details for the presentation, aiming to cover all questions that are raised.
   * There was consensus to take no committee position on the proposal for part-time town energy coordinator position (ie, shared among 7 towns).
   * With our busy roster of activities and campaigns, there was consensus to not host a Green Drinks program in 2020.

- Upcoming events:
   * a public meeting on the Transportation Climate
Initiative https://anr.vermont.gov/content/transportation-and-climate-initiative will be held 2/13, 6 pm, in Springfield
   * Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable, Wednesday, 3/18, 5-8 pm

- Other business: resident Eva Rosenbloom has volunteered, as part of her graduate research, to conduct a greenhouse gas inventory for the Town and make recommendations to lower carbon emissions. Aaron and Charlie volunteered to contact her and begin this collaboration.

- Re new activities relating to food choices and climate impact, Suzanne Leiter proposed promoting local farms (as NEC has with weatherize contractors and solar installers) by setting up a discount for local CSAs for households that submit the 20in20 Pledge form. She wants to discuss this approach with Becca Warren of the Valley Food & Farm program at Vital Communities (has to reschedule their 1/27 meeting). There was support for this, consensus that the NEC can promote via our web page, list serv posts, and in-person outreach (dump and Dan & Whit's), and the general expectation that being able to start in March would not be too late from the farms' perspective.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 2/25/20.

submitted by Linda Gray

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