

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 2/24/20, 4 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Aaron Lamperti, Charlie Lindner  
Guests: Roger Arnold (Selectboard, and Norwich Public Library staff), Ernie Ciccotelli (Planning Commission), David Lemal (Lions Club), Doug Wilberding

GHG inventory for Town with Eva Rosenbloom:

Charlie Lindner outlined a proposal from Eva Rosenbloom, a Norwich resident who is Harvard graduate student pursuing a Masters in Sustainability. As part of her coursework, Eva must do a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and she has offered to do this for Town government activities. There was consensus to accept her offer and to provide support as needed. Linda will let the Town Manager know about this initiative.

Linda reported briefly on these items:

- resident Don McCabe contacted regional donor Dorothy Byrne about financial support for "a plan to build a bike path from Huntley Meadow to the center of town, which has been shown to be popular for many in Norwich." He got a positive response; his next steps are with the Town recreation director and planning director.

- discussion of a possible Window Dressers project (low-cost interior window inserts) is postponed to the March meeting; Doc Bagley of the Strafford Energy Committee will come to outline the details of such a project.

- Linda reminded members of these upcoming events

- \* Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable, Wednesday, 3/18, 5-8 pm <https://vitalcommunities.org/energy/13th-annual-roundtable/>

- \* Climate Action Film Festival, Thursday, 3/19, 6-8 pm, Montshire Museum <https://suncommon.com/climate-action-film-festival/screenings/vermont-climate-action-short-film-screenings-and-discussions/>

- \* Real Organic Symposium: Earth in Human Hands, April 3-4 at Dartmouth College <https://www.realorganicproject.org/real-organic-project-symposium/>

Local Food outreach campaign:

The NEC has identified eating more plant foods, choosing meats raised on a small, local scale, and reducing food waste as well-supported diet actions to reduce carbon emissions. To promote them, Linda reported on a collaboration with Crossroad Farm, Sweetland Farm, and Hogwash Farm for mid-March through April. (Linda noted as well that Sweetland Farm has laid out a plan to reduce its carbon emissions by 90% in 10 years <http://www.sweetlandfarmvt.com/us/90-in-10-our-carbon-emissions-pledge/>) The NEC will do outreach to town residents on the connection between their food choices and carbon emissions via our web site, list serv posts, and tabling at D&W and the dump, and the farms will give a CSA discount to contacts that come from the NEC. There was support for covering the volunteer needs of this campaign -- likely 5 tabling events. "Eat Local" was suggested for a campaign name.

For food waste, Linda reported that Suzanne Leiter (out of town this meeting) has contacted Ham Gillett of the Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District about composting information, techniques, and bins. Roger noted that Ham will make presentations at the Norwich

Library in April and May, which coincides well with the rest of the food campaign. He also reported that the Selectboard has established a charge for a new Solid Waste Committee, and will be seeking members soon after Town Meeting.

#### E-bike Loan program:

Susan reported on the development of an Upper-Valley-based e-bike loan program. There are 6 UV energy committees now that will participate in the loan program, which is set up with Local Motion of Burlington. Norwich will go first this spring, having experience with the program last August; likely dates are mid-April through mid-May. There will be more emphasis on training the volunteers with the bikes, and on contacts with the borrowers before, during, and after their loan. Roger confirmed that the Norwich Public Library is ready to collaborate again as a site for the loan program; NEC members supported the volunteer commitments. Suggestions included gathering follow-up data such as which commuting routes worked, what problems were encountered; and having a one-pager with information on each bike in the fleet, its price, and sources.

#### Public Comments:

Ernie said that he attended mostly out of curiosity, applauded the proposed work on a GHG inventory, and highlighted his support for focusing on "sustainability" in a range of areas.

#### Other business:

Linda reported that Norwich Solar Technologies will offer community solar for residents, and is referring home roof-top customers to Integrity Solar. For 2020 Solarize, the NEC may need to identify a new partner for roof-top home solar installations.

Roger found the solar tour for Selectboard and Planning Commission members last fall very helpful, and suggested setting up such a tour for the public.

Linda shared the "Make Your Pledge" yard signs; there was some discussion of how to encourage pledges. Aaron suggested that we encourage more list-serv posts in which people share how they are making changes in their homes; they seem to be effective. Roger reported that the library will have a summer campaign using the "20 in 2020" tagline -- ie, read 20 minutes, exercise 20 minutes; perhaps there could be some collaboration with the "Save 20% in '20" campaign.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 3/24/20.

submitted by Linda Gray