

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Monday, 6/23/20, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Aaron Lamperti, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz

Guests: Roger Arnold (NPL staff), Linda Cook, Eva Rosenbloom, Pam Smith, Doug Wilberding

The 6/1 minutes and the 6/23 agenda were approved by consensus.

Public comments: Doug Wilberding asked whether NEC members are investors in solar projects in town and expressed concern about a conflict of interest with the NEC's involvement in approving such projects. Linda explained that the permitting process for solar projects is nearly all at the state level; the Town has a role in designating a site as "preferred" under current PUC rules. Norm noted his role as the investor in the 45-kW solar project that benefits the moderate-income homeowners on Starlake Lane <https://norwichtimes.com/norm-levy-as-solar-santa/>. Charlie noted that he purchased panels for his household, in the 150-kW project off Union Village Road.

Correspondence: following a list serv post, Susan received an offer for the NEC to purchase ads on lockers at D&W; Linda got rate information from the vendor; consensus to not pursue at this time.

The borrowing and volunteer schedule for the e-bike loan program, 6/29-7/19, was discussed and set. In each week, Mon-Tue-Wed will have 4 appointments for test rides; Thu-Sun will be for take-home loans for four days. Three different models of e-bikes are on loan. Linda will follow up with the Local Motion contact to set up the online reservation details, use Sign-Up Genius for the volunteer schedule, and try to schedule training for 6/27 or 28.

For 2020 Solarize, Erich and Linda propose that we approach 5 local installers about taking up the role of rooftop installations (which Norwich Solar Technologies is no longer doing): Catamount Solar, Integrity Energy, Revision Energy, SunCommon, and SunRun. Erich and Linda have a pared-down version of the Vital Communities' Solarize installer application materials. Linda would contact each of the 5 and forward the application materials to all who are interested. The target is to have a recommendation for the July meeting, for an August-September Solarize campaign. The campaign would be limited to list serv posts and Zoom info sessions.

Updates:

\*Window Dressers is suspended for now; Linda will attend a Zoom meeting on 6/24 for an update on future plans.

\*Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator: Linda reported no further meetings of the planning group that she and Planning Director Rod Francis participated in; further oversight will be through the Steering Committee on which John Langhus is the Norwich representative. The position is being advertised currently.

\*Grant applications: Norm reported that he will get word at the end of the month about the NEC application for a Norwich Women's Club grant (for kits for e-bike conversions, for how-to workshops).

\*Button Up VT 2020: Linda reported that Efficiency VT will be doing Button Up this fall, mostly remotely and with a focus on DIY work.

Future work:

\*Discussion of next steps on the GHG inventory for Town operations included gathering details about fuel use by the Public Safety and DPW buildings and Town vehicles; and getting information on no-idle technology being used by the Town of Hartford. Charlie and Aaron will continue as a subcommittee, working on this with Eva Rosembloom.

\*Linda is continuing a webinar series from Climate

Interactive <https://www.climateinteractive.org/> on their climate solutions simulator; not sure where/how this might be presented or used in the community.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, July 28, 7 pm, via Zoom.  
submitted by Linda Gray