

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Monday, 7/28/20, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Suzanne Leiter, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz
Guests: Doug Hardy, Eva Rosenbloom (at 7:55), Doug Wilberding

Linda Gray gave the statement of Act 92 compliance.

The 6/23 minutes and the 7/28 agenda were approved by consensus.

There were no public comments.

The e-bike loan program is done and went well. 40 people participated, and comments from the post-loan surveys are uniformly positive. Linda provided follow-up information to all participants by email; she is also doing follow-up phone calls to highlight the free consultations available from VBike and develop a tally of e-bike purchases. Suzanne noticed that her test-riders were interested in one bike model and suggested that next year test rides could be scheduled per bike. Charlie observed that the library was a good location, and he was able to speak with other residents about the bikes. The bikes are now on loan in Thetford.

Discussion about the logistics of doing workshops to show how to convert a regular bike to an e-bike focused on video logistics. A Zoom meeting would provide people the opportunity to ask questions in real time; separate video recording would provide better visuals and close-ups of the work. There was agreement that a combination would be ideal. We can do two workshops: one by Karl Kemnitzer on Susan Hardy's bike with a kit purchased by her; another by NEC member Aaron Lamperti with a kit funded by the Norwich Women's Club. Richard Neugass and/or CATV might help with the videography; Linda volunteered to follow up.

For 2020 Solarize, Erich and Linda have been reviewing proposals from two candidates for rooftop installer-partner. Both are well-qualified re equipment, pricing, and customer service; they proposed exploring whether NEC could include both in the Solarize campaign. There was consensus for Erich and Linda to do that, and proceed with their choice of a single installer if the two-installer proposal did not work out.

Updates:

* Linda reiterated that no Window Dressers workshops will take place in 2020; the parent organization is holding webinars to help groups prepare for future workshops, which Linda will circulate. Also, groups in our area (Norwich Congregational Church, Hartford, Hartland) will begin coordinating for 2021.

* Linda reported that, when the Selectboard posed questions about language in the agreement governing the Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator, TRORC decided to move forward on the position without Norwich's participation.

* Linda has signed up Norwich for Button Up VT 2020.

* Linda reported that the Planning Commission is coordinating follow-up on Action Items in the Town Plan.

Linda received an invitation from Ana Mejia at Vital Communities to partner with them on their Mobile Home Energy Savings Project, which they have run in Springfield and Hartford. Ana

can attend the NEC meeting in August, so this will be on the agenda for that meeting. In the online property assessment database, Linda found about 20 properties categorized as "modile."

Charlie Lindner reported back on his research on the Idle Right technology (to reduce idling and its associated costs in gasoline vehicles). From the Hartford energy coordinator, he learned that both the Burlington police department and UVM security have used/are using it. Online reports indicate that it functions well and saves money and emissions. Charlie will try to have a direct conversation with these Burlington users, and then share the information with Town staff.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, August 25, 7 pm, via Zoom.

submitted by Linda Gray