

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 1/26/21, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Aaron Lamperti (at 7:07), Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz

Guests: Linda Cook, Rob Gere, Pam Smith (at 7:30)

Linda Gray gave the statement of Act 92 compliance. The 12/22 meeting minutes and the 1/26 agenda were approved by consensus.

Norm Levy reported on the Energy Saving Project with Vital Communities: two Norwich homeowners have responded to outreach, and Norm will follow up on their questions. Across the several towns participating in this program, there have been ~100 responses to the home energy questionnaire, and 20-30 owners looking for help with specific work on their homes. Vital Communities will keep the summary of available homeowner resources up to date.

Linda reported on the 2021 e-bike loan program: Norwich will have the e-bikes for five weeks centered on the month of June (5/31 through 7/4); the Sharon Energy Committee is eager to do the loans for two of those weeks (TBD); the UV operating budget (~\$3300) is to come from a combination of town energy committee contributions and local business sponsorships.

Linda reported that she contacted the four farm partners from the Eat Low & Local campaign (Crossroad, Hogwash, Honey Field, Sweetland) to ask about collaborating again this spring. Two have confirmed yes, she will pursue answers from the others. Crossroad reported that the campaign brought them 7 CSA members, 2 returning and 5 new.

Discussion on outreach and activities for Electrify Everything in 2021:

- Linda will further reorganize the NEC web page
- Aaron has drafted a case study of the retrofit of his mother's house, which included weatherization, adding solar, and switching from fuel oil to heat pumps for heating, cooling (new), and hot water. Annual energy expenses prior to the work were about \$3000; while the loan is being paid back, they are about \$3900; after the loan is paid, they will be about \$600. The house will be cheaper to operate, have lower maintenance costs, and have an added feature, summer cooling. Committee members proposed adding photos with permission, a calculation of emissions reduction, and the post-loan annual costs. The committee will try to find other Norwich homeowners willing to do a similar case study.
- there was agreement to develop a corps of Norwich residents willing to share their experience with electrifying (with heat pumps, EVs, e-bikes, lawn equipment) as resources for others; through a form on the web site and list serv postings.
- suggestion to work with Vital Communities and other towns to educate lawn service companies about the benefits of electric equipment
- possibilities for providing "home energy navigator" services to homeowners
- possibilities for providing current information on how to find new/used EVs at VT car dealers (the required purchase venue, to get state incentives)

Announcements:

- UV Transportation Management Assn meeting is 1/28, 4 pm (first agenda item: discussion of VT transportation modernization bill)

- Vital Communities webinar series in March on local investment
<https://vitalcommunities.org/blog/put-your-money-where-your-life-is-reclaiming-our-local-economy/>
introductory presentation on 2/23, Norm Levy will be on the panel

Public comments: none.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 23, 7 pm, via Zoom.

submitted by Linda Gray