

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 5/25/21, 7 pm, via Zoom

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

Guests: Linda Cook, Rob Gere, Tory Littlefield (TRORC) until 7:45, Geoff Martin (TRORC) until 7:45

1. Aaron Lamperti gave the statement of Act 92 compliance.
2. The 4/27 meeting minutes and the 5/25 agenda were approved by consensus.
3. Geoff Martin, Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator, and Tory Littlefield, Regional Planner, both at Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission, presented the energy "Report Card" that they prepared for Norwich. Discussion centered on the limits and gaps in the data. There may be an option for committee lists of weatherization customers to be compared with stats from Efficiency VT. Committee members asked Geoff and Tory to push for better data to identify fuel-switching – ie, when people switch from fossil fuels to electric heat pumps and cars, and their electric usage increases. There was agreement that the Report Card chart on renewable energy generation needs correction.
- 4.A. A shared folder for committee files has been set up on Google Drive; Aaron will make sure that all committee members have access.
4. B. Linda confirmed that e-bike loans in Norwich will run 6/13-7/4, and asked committee members to sign up on the schedule spreadsheet (in shared drive). Two 2020 borrowers have volunteered. She expects that online reservations will be working as of 6/1, and will begin general publicity then. The schedule for 6/20 has been set so that borrowers can participate in the NHS "feast and farm tour."
4. C. Linda reported that the Eat Low & Local campaign is ended, with 12 respondents.
4. D. Reviewing Town parcels for solar hosting, three parcels have possibilities:
 - 1) the DPW/transfer station parcel; next step is Aaron to recommend to the Town Manager that the Town develop an RFP; this could be a task for Geoff Martin, Erich Rentz can advise.
 - 2) The owner of private parcel off Upper Loveland Rd., which already hosts a cell phone tower, is working with Norwich Solar on a possible solar site; a Town parcel abuts, and perhaps could host part of that project.
 - 3) A 40+ acre Town parcel on Dutton Hill Rd. might be an option if there are no conservation or trails restrictions. Linda is waiting further information from the Planning Director.
4. E. 2021 "Electrify Everything" virtual events:
 - The April webinars with Efficiency VT on heat pumps went well, with ~30 participants each session; getting a recording online is in process
 - The 5/19 presentation on electric lawn equipment went well, with 17 participants; a recording is also in process.
 - Aaron is still working on revisions to home case study #2.
 - Plans for Solarize publicity and presentations on hold until after the e-bike loans.
4. F. Linda reported that the Community Workshop for Window Dressers is confirmed for November 11-17 at the parish hall of the Norwich Congregational Church. Outreach has been made to organizations and people who can contact low/moderate income households; outreach to the general public will start in mid-June. Volunteer measurers have been recruited. The timetable is June-July-Aug

for insert sign-ups; July for training for measure volunteers; late August-September for measuring; Nov for the community workshop to assemble inserts.

5. Other business, new projects, announcements:

- The Article 36 Task Force will meet on 5/27.
- Sen. Leahy publicized an application process for earmarked projects; the committee and Geoff Martin will keep an eye on opportunities.
- Possible proposals for a NWC grant in 2022: Aaron will start a file in the shared drive to track ideas; a first one is to subsidize costs for Window Dresser inserts in 2022.
- Susan Hardy is not able to attend UVTMA meetings for now; Charlie volunteered.
- The GMP pilot program on resiliency zones involves three towns this year; Linda sat in on a presentation in Strafford in which GMP indicated its criteria include frequency of outages and household energy burden. The GMP contact has Norwich on his list for further discussion, with the town manager and planning director as contacts.
- The Hartford Climate Action plan will be presented to the Hartford Selectboard on June 29 and July 27.
- Norm is investing in a solar array in Norwich, to benefit the Good Neighbor Health Clinic.
- Linda will share a good summary on batteries, by Dave Roberts of VOX, to those interested.
- Erich recommended the most recent Energy Gang podcast <https://www.greentechmedia.com/podcast/the-energy-gang>

6. Public comment: there was none.

7. Adjourned at 8:40.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 6/22, 7 pm via Zoom.

submitted by Linda Gray