

The Article 36 Task Force of the town of Norwich held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 1 to make up for a regularly scheduled meeting that had to be postponed the week before.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:50 on Zoom.

In attendance were task force members Jack Cushman, Aaron Lamperti, Robert Gere and Eva Rosenbloom. The fifth member, Ernie Ciccotelli, had advised that he might not attend the meeting because of work obligations and he did not attend.

Two members of the public, Linda Gray and Linda Cook, attended by Zoom and telephone, respectively.

Jack Cushman read the required Covid remote-meeting script.

The task force has agreed to operate by consensus, therefore roll call votes are not taken.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

It was agreed that Cushman would take minutes and Lamperti would run the Zoom meeting as he had drafted the agenda.

The committee discussed actions since the last meeting.

Gere has arranged an on-line location using Google Drive for the storage of documents by individual members and the group, and especially for public access to working documents that are to be discussed at meetings, serving as a "packet" for each meeting. Documents are not edited by the group in the Google Drive which is used for sharing, storage and transparency so that work can go ahead without physical meetings.

The folder where the public may see pertinent drafts and documents is located at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19jhlhaVpcRAQr_VvRBrN7F4-4YUXa89t

This URL was included in the draft agenda for the meeting, as will be the practice before each meeting of the task force.

Public member Linda Cook confirmed that she had been able to access the documents for this meeting in advance using this Google drive, as a member of the public.

Cushman and Lamperti walked the group through the two draft scheduling documents set up for discussion at this meeting.

Cushman described the document that lays out the requirements of the task force charter for work including an August 1 report to the Select Board. The document stresses those items that "must" be accomplished and sorts them into time order.

Lamperti described the document that sets up a month by month schedule for work through the end of the year, given that the task force work may generate possible warrant article(s). This is not certain but it would have to be done on a tight schedule.

By consensus, the group agreed to be guided by these two draft documents in scheduling activities in the coming months.

Cushman noted that Ciccotelli had been informed of the search for consensus on these schedules, as he could not be in attendance, and that Ernie had informed Jack that he had no concerns about those schedules.

The group agreed by consensus on next steps:

(A) Consolidate these documents into initial work plan draft. This is to be the earliest draft of the report that the Select Board has asked to receive by Aug. 1. This draft will be open for public comment. Lamperti, working with one other member.

(B) Write a scoping document. This is a definition that is required by the Select Board as part of the task force charge. Cushman, working with one other member.

A and B will be on the agenda for review at next monthly meeting, and will be in the packet when the agenda for that meeting is posted.

Eva presented her review of emissions. This is a critical element of the baseline, threshold, and efficiency measures described in the task force charge. After a detailed discussion of fine points and brainstorming on representative questions, which need to be resolved, such as how to present data on emissions, fuel consumption and efficiency, Aaron and Eva said they would continue this work intensively. The focus, as indicated both by Eva's earlier analysis and by the SB charge, is on vehicles and buildings owned by the town.

Aaron summarized with listing a few further actions

- List of fossil fuel uses tagged by fuel user

- * Early draft list of potential actions to reduce town's direct fossil fuel list

- Begin planning public input sessions

By consensus, the group agreed to hold two sessions, one in July before the initial work plan is submitted to the Select Board, and one in August or as soon after as possible, once feedback is received from SB.

We will be soliciting ideas from the public in various channels before these meetings.

Cushman will lay out for the next monthly meeting a concept for internet-based (i.e. Zoom or public comment docket, etc.) public input as soon as practicable, in keeping with transparency goals and OML.

Aaron asked if the public meetings must be formal warned meetings of the task force. Cushman thought this likely and will address the questions in the concept proposal.

This public input concept will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cook commented that with school out in July and August it might not be best time for public sessions to be well attended. Cushman noted that the SB charge requiring a report by August 1 and the need for timely proposals vis a vis town meeting required that we not delay.

Aaron asked if there were further public comment. Hearing none, the group agreed by consensus to adjourn at 5:58 pm.

The meeting was held on the town Zoom site and was recorded.

Minutes drafted by Cushman