

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 6/22/21, 7 pm, at Tracy Hall and via Zoom

Attending: in Tracy Hall – Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Charlie Lindner  
via Zoom – Norm Levy, Erich Rentz

Guests: in Tracy Hall – Town Manager Herb Durfee  
via Zoom – Linda Cook, Rob Gere, Pam Smith, Doug Wilberding

1. With the Covid emergency ended, the statement of Act 92 compliance was not given.
2. The 5/25 meeting minutes and the 6/22 agenda were approved by consensus.
3. Herb confirmed his support for developing an RFP for a solar project on the DPW parcel. There were suggestions to ask for battery storage proposals, and for financing options that make use of tax credits, and to get input from Geoff Martin, the multi-town energy coordinator. The NEC will develop a draft RFP for Herb's review.
4. Geoff Martin's work with Norwich begins as of July 1, the new fiscal year. Geoff has set up a meeting with Linda Gray, as the town's rep on Geoff's Steering Committee.
5. A. We are mid-way through the 2021 e-bike loans in Norwich. Linda reported that sign-ups are fewer than in 2020, but the enthusiasm of borrowers remains high. Overnight loans are full; test-ride appointments remain open. This suggests that only one test-ride day per week is needed. There was discussion of running DIY conversion workshops – overseen by Karl Kemnitzer, organized by the UV loan committee. Hanover Adventures Tours may have space for such a workshop; a survey of 2021 borrowers from all towns could help confirm interest.
5. B. There was no update on other Town parcels for solar.
5. C. "Electrify Everything":
  - There was discussion of Town mowing, both by DPW staff and overseen by the cemetery commission; agreement to tag this fossil fuel use for review by the Art. 36 Task Force.
  - Video is online now ([necVT.org](http://necVT.org)) of the April webinars on heat pumps – one presentation edited with both Q/A sessions.
  - Video is online now ([necVT.org](http://necVT.org)) of the May presentation on electric lawn equipment "unlawning."
  - Aaron revised home case study #2; Linda will add it to the web site.
  - Agreement to wait before scheduling in-person solarize outreach; Linda will consult with solar installer-partners about content, timing, and publicity for Zoom presentation(s).
5. D. Linda reported that Window Dressers planning continues with our Hanover partners. Thetford/Strafford has a Community Workshop in August, and committee members can volunteer for it and better understand how the program works. Linda asked committee members to consider roles coordinating sub-tasks for the November community workshop (11/11-15).
5. E. Aaron noted that he created a document in the committee Google drive to track ideas for a possible 2022 grant application to the Norwich Women's Club; members can add directly to it.
6. Other business, new projects, announcements:

- Committee members proposed additions to an action list being developed by the Article 36 Task Force; there was consensus that the focus has to be fuel-switching for buildings and vehicles.
- No one was able to attend the May UVTMA meeting. Meetings are the fourth Thursday, Norm is available and volunteered to cover them.
- The end of the Covid emergency means, for now, that meetings can't be solely via Zoom. The internet connection in Tracy Hall for this meeting was not good. Meeting in person with a Zoom option will depend on improving that connection.
- Linda will share links to a Renewable Energy Vermont webinar on the legislative session and one from the Weatherization at Scale Coalition.

7. Public comment: Doug Wilberding noted that the Trustees of Public Funds are developing a Green Lending Program, intending to make capital available at attractive rates for “green” projects in the Upper Valley.

8. Adjourned at 8:20.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 7/27, 7 pm, at Tracy Hall.

submitted by Linda Gray