

DRAFT MINUTES, Article 36 Task Force meeting of September 23, 2021

The task force held its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in Tracy Hall, and via Zoom.

Aaron Lamperti was there in person and Jack Cushman, Rob Gere and Eva Rosenbloom via Zoom. Linda Cooke attended by phone as a member of the public.

Decisions of this task force are by consensus without roll call votes. A quorum being present, the agenda and past minutes were approved by consensus.

The task force accepted correspondence from Roger Arnold, chair of the Selectboard, requesting that the committee report to the Selectboard on the climate plan recently adopted by the town of Hartford, the process used there, and the implications for the work of the task force.

Our consensus is that the work in Hartford goes far beyond the purview of our task force under its charge and under the terms of Article 36. Our work is strictly aimed at phasing out the direct use of fossil fuels by our municipal entities. Hartford's plan is aimed at emissions of greenhouse gases on an economy wide scale.

We agreed that we are happy to share our views of Hartford's work informally with the SB, we don't think we are well positioned to provide a formal report. That said, members of the Norwich Energy Committee, including Lamperti, were engaged with the Hartford process. Also, the regional energy coordinator who works for our town and others via TRORC, Geoff Martin, was deeply involved and is also working with us, and should be asked to advise the Selectboard.

The committee approved by consensus a plan to gather public input into our action list at a special meeting in mid October, which Lamperti will arrange with the town clerk. This should be a little before our next regular meeting.

We reviewed the current version of the action list, which we will use to set priorities for recommendations to the town. Rosenbloom and Martin filled in estimates of greenhouse gas emissions for various sources. Lamperti added a very detailed list of town vehicles.

A next step is to assess estimated costs and benefits, if possible, for specified fuel use or emissions reductions, timetables, and other details. Cushman noted that an initial attempt to calculate costs per ton of emission reductions is preliminary and that it does not produce a good estimate for costs over time or account for cobenefits for various

expenditures. Rosenbloom agreed that the work is preliminary and continuing. Data presented in our working documents should not be considered final.

The task force discussed a process for developing recommendations to the Selectboard in keeping with the schedule in our Aug. 2 report to the board.

Individual task force members will present their priority lists and other views on recommendations for sharing with each other and the public at our next regular meeting.

As a preliminary step toward writing a final report, individual task force members will each produce their own draft documents or outlines and other suggestions, in writing, for sharing with each other and the public at our next regular meeting.

There were no comments from the public.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Minutes of this meeting were inadvertently delayed. They should have been posted on Sept. 28. The problem was due to scheduling and other issues for Jack Cushman, task force chair, the note taker; I apologize for any inconvenience.

Jack Cushman