

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 10/26/21, 7 pm, at Tracy Hall and via Zoom

Attending: in Tracy Hall – Aaron Lamperti, Norm Levy
via Zoom – Linda Gray, Suzanne Leiter, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz
Guests: via Zoom – Linda Cook, Rob Gere, Pam Smith

1. The 9/28 minutes and 10/26 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Updates on existing projects

A. Town parcels for solar hosting

- 20-068.200 - Dutton Hill: Linda has confirmed that easements on the property with the US Land Trust preclude solar development.
- DPW draft RFP: Erich reported that the old, unmapped dump sites on the parcel require a level of environmental assessment that make the site infeasible, unless the Town pursues review of those sites.
- From a list of Town-owned parcels, Linda will check with the Town Clerk about several prospects.

B. Electrify Everything

- Solarize: there's been no activity since last meeting, but Norwich households are still adding solar. There was consensus to continue to post on the list serv about solar, to maintain awareness.

Regarding list serv posts, there was agreement for Aaron to be the prime poster, with NEC members sending their draft posts to him. There was agreement to aim to use consistent elements for NEC posts: visuals (Unicode symbols) in the Subject line, a relevant link to the NEC web site, and text to highlight the Norwich Neighbor Network (to encourage more direct conversations).

- Electrify Everything checklist: Charlie has edited the checklist to 1 ½ pages now, wants to get it to a single page; Linda has reorganized the web site to align with the checklist. There was agreement to "beta test" the checklist (with family members?) before considering it final and ready to include on the web site.

C. Window Dressers: Linda reported that measuring is almost complete; 191 total inserts will be made at the Community Build November 10-15; 147 of 166 volunteer slots are filled.

D. Button Up: Aaron did several list serv posts on Weatherization webinars, which are wrapping up this month.

E. EV Charging Station at D&W: Linda reported that Dan Fraser at Dan & Whit's is interested in covering the networking and maintenance expenses, and potentially taking over ownership of the equipment if that is the approach preferred by the Town. This is on the agenda for the 10/27 Selectboard meeting; Geoff Martin will present his recommendation.

Geoff is also working on the final report to close out the grant for the EV charging station at Huntley.

3. Other business, new projects, announcements

- Article 36 task force update: Aaron reported that at their meeting on 10/28 the group will review their priority actions for inclusion in their report to the Selectboard.

E. UVTMA report: Norm Levy had no report; he has to ensure that he is on the UVTMA members email list with the new Vital Communities staff person.

4. Public comment and correspondence

Aaron had received an email from Richard Murphy, encouraging the NEC to pursue action on gas/oil powered leaf blowers, noting that Burlington and the state of California are on their way to banning them and linking to this essay from the NY Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/25/opinion/leaf-blowers-california-emissions.html>

Linda suggested that the NEC should collaborate with the Conservation Commission in this area.

There was no public comment. Norm shared that his investment entity (Norm & Sun) has purchased 44 kW of the new 150 kW Turnpike Rd solar project, to benefit The Good Neighbor Health Clinic. Linda asked committee members to think about how to distribute the “Solarize Norwich” mailbox stickers to more households.

5. Adjourned at 8:15.

Next scheduled meeting would be on the fourth Tuesday in November (11/23), which is Thanksgiving week. Depending on member availability this may be replaced with a special meeting the week after. Details TBD.

submitted by Linda Gray