

Draft minutes article 36 task force

October 28 regular meeting 2021

The Task Force met in Tracy Hall (Lamperti) and via Zoom (Cushman, Gere, Ciccotelli, Rosenbloom) at 7 pm for an hour and a half. Members of the public were in attendance via Zoom and telephone (Linda Cooke, Linda Gray, Geoff Martin)

The task force continued to work via consensus toward setting priorities for actions (policies, programs and projects) to meet the objective of Article 36, a rapid phase-out of the direct municipal consumption of fossil fuels by Norwich municipal entities.

As always we did not cast recorded votes. In this meeting, we looked at “rankings” of prospective actions on the spreadsheet of potential steps that is maintained on our public facing Google drive. The URL for the document drive is posted in the agenda for each meeting, and the document was shared on screen via Zoom during this meeting.

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

Cushman emphasized that individual rankings were not “votes” or “decisions” but were rather part of the consensus building deliberations. All task force members agreed, and explicitly acknowledged that using the term “vote” was shorthand for this ranking process. Rankings were adjusted by members during discussion, and remain open for adjustment.

We agreed that in the process of writing a final report, we would focus our attention on those action items that received three or more #1 rankings (top priority) from the five members, each of whom ranked the projects individually before our meeting.

Lamperti adjusted the spreadsheet to put at the top of the list more than a dozen action items that met this criteria and should be the focus of our attention going forward.

The 13 higher ranked projects are now:

(Not necessarily in order of priority)

Telematics to track driver behavior and fuel use
Replace Tracy Hall HVAC - Air source heat pump
Weatherization - Tracy Hall
Review TON practices and procedures
Inventory vehicles and fuel use
Install fuel usage monitoring per vehicle (or key per vehicle)
Moratorium on new FF vehicles
Weatherization - DPW
Policy to require climate impact statements for all town spending
Use fleet management techniques to reduce fuel use
DPW - Air source heat pumps
Electric grounds equipment (eLawn Care)
Replace Tracy Hall HVAC - ground source heat pump

In writing the first common draft of a working group report, these items will get greater focus than other ideas.

In order to facilitate a consensus common draft, each member of the Task Force was invited at the previous meeting to submit an outline. Cushman, Lamperti and Rosenbloom submitted these drafts and they were briefly presented at

this meeting. The drafts are stored in the publicly available Google Docs along with other working papers. (Article 36 Shared Documents > Committee Report)

Lamperti's outline was a section by section listing of headings. Cushman's outline listed more than a dozen items for consideration to be included, grouped in three sections: scientific basis for urgency and update on state, federal and international goals; process of Article 36 review and background on past efforts; and forward looking recommendations. Rosenbloom presented two detailed "pathways" illustrating different approaches that could achieve relatively rapid 15 percent reductions, noting that these were not mutually exclusive and could be blended.

Cushman volunteered to merge the three outlines into a "chairman's draft" and Lamperti said he would provide feedback and individual review of this draft. This draft outline will be reviewed at a series of special meetings, and public input is sought.

Gere said it was important to have a report in front of the Select Board in December if at all possible, the earlier the better.

The Task Force consensus is to hold a series of three drafting sessions, one each on 11/4, 11/18 and 12/2. These will be "special" meetings. Town clerk has been asked for Zoom and room reservations, and the dates may change slightly based on availability.

Gere recommended that the draft report be written concisely, with an executive summary. Cushman and Lamperti agreed.

The committee considered comments and questions from public members in keeping with its consensus building approach.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Jack Cushman, chair