

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee

Tuesday, 7/26/22, 7 pm, via Zoom [due to some Zoom issues, start was at 7:10]

Attending: Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Norm Levy, Erich Rentz

Guest: Rob Gere, Garret Heaton

1. The 6/28 minutes and 7/26 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Updates on existing projects

A. Electrify Everything: in-person outreach at Dan & Whit's on 7/23 went well; the focus was on weatherization, and committee volunteers reported a worthwhile number of serious conversations and that weatherization seems more common now. Charlie scheduled both recent outreach sessions, agreement to ask him to pursue them for August and September. Garret Heaton was introduced, interested in volunteering with the committee.

B. Window Dressers: Linda reported that inserts orders are close to our goal of 250, with about 70 "special rate" orders from Thetford, and 30 from our own outreach. If orders decrease as measuring rules out some windows, we can publicize to get more orders and begin a waitlist. Reminder that the Community Build will be 10/14-20, at the church on Dartmouth campus

C. Energy Coordinator (IREC) report

- Linda reported that, as follow-up on the discussion among the 7 IREC towns (at Huntley in May), the Steering Committee agreed to go back to their energy committees and ask for volunteers to work on the two actions prioritized for collaboration: Climate Action Guidelines (a version of our Electrify Everything activities) and Residential Building Energy Standards. Agreement for Linda to circulate the schedules for each group as they develop.

- Discussion on submitting comments by 8/5 to the Public Service Dept. on the Renewable Energy Standard. Linda circulated a draft, pulling from several sources. Agreement that there isn't enough time for the committee as a whole to approve; members to review, send comments to Linda, and indicate if they'd like to sign on as individuals.

- Geoff Martin's Norwich-specific work includes developing recommendations to the Planning Commission on energy-related provisions for the Town's revised land-use regulations; working with Town Manager Rod Francis and energy consultant Marcus Jones on energy reviews of Tracy Hall and the DPW building; reviewing the Capital Improvement Plan from a climate-action perspective; and preparing an RFP for solar canopies at the Huntley parking lot, to be ready when Town buildings and vehicles are electrified. On an ongoing basis, Geoff keeps up monthly with the net-meter allocations to the Town's GMP accounts

D. UVTMA report: Norm reported the group's next meeting is 7/28; electric buses are coming, in about a year, for two area transit operations.

E. Huntley solar canopy: as above.

Norwich Farmer's Market solar canopy: this can be dropped from future NEC agendas until the Co-op seeks advice from the NEC.

3. Other business, new projects, announcements:

F. The Planning Commission will submit to the Select Board a proposal for a committee to work on a Sidewalk, Trails, Bike Paths Master Plan potentially including an NEC member; committee members can mull over volunteering for this.

G. Updates on A36 items:

- Electric mower trial at DPW – the Select Board approved purchase of a gas mower, to meet a mix of staff needs, with a commitment to test viable municipal electric lawn mowers by June 1, 2023, continue annually until a viable mower is procured, and then sell or retire the gas mower.
- Continuing discussion of EV cruisers and charging at the safety building – Aaron reported on a discussion in Lebanon that highlighted the need to think through the requirements for charging police vehicles. This has been shared with the Town Manager and Geoff Martin.

Other:

- Linda has gotten 3 print copies of the new VLS EV [buyer's guide](#); she'll ask the library to add a copy to its collection; we can keep two for use in outreach; she added a link to the online version of the guide on the NEC home page.
- Aaron has applied to fill a vacancy on the Select Board; if he's appointed, he would resign from the NEC.

4. Public comment and correspondence: None.

5. Adjourned at 8:00

The fourth Tuesday in August will be 8/23.

submitted by Linda Gray