

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 4/25/23, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Garret Heaton, Charlie Lindner (chair), Erich Rentz, Brad Wible
Guests: Brendan Classon, Linda Cook, Rob Gere, Doug Wilberding (until 8 pm)

Charlie Lindner welcomed members and guests, who introduced themselves. Charlie proposed adding to the agenda two items: Brendan Classon's offer of thermal imaging camera available for loan, and Brad Wible's information about MCS Grade 4 teachers planning a unit on energy.

1. The 3/28 minutes and 4/23 agenda as amended were approved by consensus.

Brendan explained that he had bought the FLIR camera about two years ago (\$700), used it once for his house, and realized that it could be most useful being loaned out. Linda noted that the Norwich Public Library has had a watt-meter in its collection for many years; NPL might include this camera as well. Consensus that NPL would be a good host for the camera; Linda will inquire ASAP, and follow up with Brendan.

2. Updates

* Energize UV: Charlie noted that the event took place 4/1, was especially well-attended for the indoor information tables, less so for the EVs and e-bikes due to the rainy weather. Consensus that a regular multi-town collaboration is good and that organizers ought to do a post-event review and briefing, to help ensure future events.

* Solarize: outreach is scheduled for 4/29 at the transfer station; Linda noted that on 4/20 there were 126 unique visitors to the NEC web site and 344 page visits. This was when a post on consumer guidance on going solar appeared in the listserv digest.

* Narrative collection: we will have the new "action-tracking" forms for the April outreach and follow up afterward.

* Local contractor availability: Linda has a list of local contractors pulled from the Efficiency VT directory; has heard back from 4 contractors. The general availability is for evaluations or site visits within a few months, but not until 2024 for actual work. Consensus to gauge how valuable this information is, for outreach on 4/29.

* Norwich Historic Preservation Commission: Linda will meet again with them to pursue collaboration on resources on clean energy and efficiency in historic homes. The current focus is on ensuring that the web sites of both groups direct users to each other.

* E-bike loans: Linda reported that the bikes will be in Norwich 5/10-5/24; all the volunteer slots are filled; listserv posts and the online reservation system are lined up, we are just awaiting the go-ahead from Vital Communities once insurance details are set.

3. Committee reorganization: Erich agreed to serve as chair, pending his reappointment by the Selectboard on 4/26; Garret agreed to serve as vice-chair. Rob Gere has applied for the 2nd open position. There was agreement that committee tasks (listserv posts, scheduling outreach, minutes) would be shared as much as possible. Brendan expressed his willingness and availability to volunteer, which was welcomed.

4. IREC (Energy Coordinator) report: Linda reported that Jeff Grout presented at the 4/12 Selectboard meeting; the Selectboard approved an application for the MERP \$4,000 mini-grant, and for the MERP building audit (free to the Town). The Selectboard indicated interest in holding a separate meeting focused solely (or mostly) on Tracy Hall. Jeff is also handling various data-tracking tasks.

5. [UVTMA](#): there was no regular meeting in April; pending his appointment to the NEC, Rob will attend in future.

6. Other business:

- the Vital Communities e-bike demo on 4/29 has enough volunteers from other towns.
- for the Rood District climate series, Linda has emailed for details on audience (adult/family), date/time, goal for series; saved for further discussion once more information has been received.
- MCS Grade 4 unit on energy: Brad will get more details.

7. Public comment and correspondence:

- Amy Stringer emailed about gas-powered leaf blowers. Electric yard equipment is on the NEC's schedule as a focus for June; Charlie will ask Fogg's about having an e-mower available for a demo for June outreach; agreement to seek to collaborate with the Conservation Commission on "un-lawning."
- Linda noted that staff at Sustainable Woodstock has been blocked from posting to listservs in other towns about their events; agreement that publicizing them by the NEC was appropriate.

8. Adjourned at 8:30.

The fourth Tuesday in May is 5/23.

submitted by Linda Gray