

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 5/23/23, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Garret Heaton, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz (chair), Eva Rosenbloom

1. The 4/25 minutes and 5/23 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Updates

* Solarize: Charlie summarized outreach on 4/29 at the transfer station – a steady flow of people, who came over to talk, on a broad range of topics.

* Lawn equipment: outreach at the transfer station is set for 6/10; 2 members of the Conservation Commission will come, to talk about “de-lawning;” staff has highlighted a potential demonstration area; a Fogg’s staff person will bring some Ego-brand equipment.

* Narrative collection: Garret reported that there have been no new participants from the names collected on 4/19; he will try contacting them individually. Charlie noted that he has had positive feedback on narrative-centered listserv posts; he will coordinate with Garret about working them in to future posts.

* Local contractor availability: Linda hasn’t done anything on this since the April meeting; she will pursue a bit more and report on whether it’s worth doing further.

* Norwich Historic Preservation Commission: Linda reported that collaboration now is to ensure that the web sites of both groups direct users to each other. The NHPC will recruit for the Norwich Neighbor Network people with experience making energy improvements to historic homes; when there are some participating, we can post about that topic.

* E-bike loans: the loan scheduled 5/10-5/24 was postponed because insurance wasn’t finalized; Linda reported that insurance just was confirmed earlier today, so the loans will proceed this season. Norwich’s replacement dates will likely be in September; there was consensus that if we end up with just one week, that’s OK. Linda will work with Vital Communities staff on scheduling.

* Future activities: the Root District Schoolhouse has included the NEC in their new climate series. Since this is so new, they are open to our suggestions re date/time/organization. As of now, the NEC program is scheduled for Wednesday, 9/6. Agreement for members to think of options for content, presentation, even whether a different day would be better; for discussion in June.

3. IREC (Energy Coordinator) report: Jeff Grout’s report was included with the agenda. There was agreement that the report from building consultant Marcus Jones should be presented to the Selectboard well before budget season; perhaps the NEC could help by coordinating a meeting date with Jones.

5. UVTMA: the next meeting is 5/25; Rob will attend.

6. Other business:

- Rob noted that there are 2 new vacancies on the Planning Commission, and he has applied. If appointed, he would like to ensure the town bylaws support energy efficiency; both Eva and Linda had resources they will send him.

- Erich noted that the Town may set up some shared Zoom “seats” with ~4 committees sharing a log-in; there was agreement that this should work fine.

7. Public comment and correspondence: none

8. Adjourned at 8:05.

The fourth Tuesday in June is 6/27. Two members will be away on 6/27; Erich will confirm others' attendance and check the possibility of meeting on 6/20 if needed.

submitted by Linda Gray