

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee  
Tuesday, 8/22/23, 7 pm, via Zoom

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

1. The 6/27 and 7/25/minutes and the 8/22 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Updates

- a. Efficiency VT 2023 Button Up campaign: will run from 10/2 through mid-November, free virtual home energy visits are available again/still; NEC has a good supply of materials from 2022 that are not out-of-date; EVT will do 4 webinars on Wednesdays – 2 on Weatherization 101, 2 on Heat Pump 101. Agreement for Charlie to schedule outreach during October, and to do listserv posts.
- b. E-bike loans: volunteers are lined up, online reservations are ready, Linda will begin listserv posts. Agreement to line up 4-5 EVS, from among NEC members, for the “Demo Day” on 9/16. Linda will confirm who can bring their cars.
- d. Root District Schoolhouse climate series, NEC on 9/6: after discussion about presentation details, agreement that Eva can participate but must leave at 8 pm, Linda can participate, Charlie can probably participate. The content will center on 1) why electrify everything, 2) using the resources on the NEC web site, 3) case studies, and Q/A. There is no wifi at the schoolhouse; Rob has stored web pages on the NEC Google drive, Linda will draft a slide show. Linda will check if Elliot Harik can confirm his availability to answer questions about energy changes he has done.
- e. WindowDressers: the 2023 Community Build will be 9/28-10/4 at the Norwich Congregational Church; volunteer sign-ups are more than 40% filled and open at <https://signup.com/go/JLAJXbD> . The target of 250 total inserts has been met. Dan & Whit’s will again dedicate September “round-up” payments to Upper Valley Builds.

3. IREC (Energy Coordinator) report: Linda reported that Jeff Grout attended the 8/16 Selectboard meeting on Tracy Hall, and he will offer to help the Interim Town Manager in reviewing responses to the RFP for a professional to provide guidance on both space needs and energy improvements.

4. UVTMA: Rob reported that the last meeting was generally uneventful; Linda reported on the survey of municipalities and regional planning commission about interest in a bike corridor along Route 5.

5. Other business:

- Discussion of this item from minutes of the 8/16 meeting of the Norwich School Board: “In Spring they could potentially have some alternative energy for heating the school. They are looking at moving away from oil and to a better source, such as propane.”

Linda moved, Rob seconded a motion for Erich as chair to write to the School Board to highlight the benefits of switching to electric heat pumps rather than propane (significantly reduced emissions, improved health and safety, and the addition of cooling); approved unanimously. Erich will work with Eva on final language.

6. Public comment and correspondence: none

Adjourned at 8:30. The fourth Tuesday in September is 8/26.

submitted by Linda Gray