

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee  
Tuesday, 5/28/24, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Rob Gere (7:35), Linda Gray, Tom Griggs, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz (chair), Eva Rosenbloom

1. The 4/23 minutes and the 5/28 agenda (with items for Other Business enumerated) were approved by consensus.

2. Upcoming events:

a. Debrief on VEEP Community Energy Workshop collaboration with NPL: the adult workshop on transportation took place on 5/18 with 6 EV drivers and 4 e-bike riders lined up for show-and-tell. Linda reported that attendees consisted of this group and others from the Energy Committee, no additional attendees. The presentation was very good, and there was great conversation among the participants, but this appears to confirm that outreach where people already are going (eg, transfer station) reaches more people.

VEEP also offers a “walk-by” demo booth for \$200 for 3 hours. There was agreement for Erich to contact the VEEP presenter about scheduling this for the NHS “New to Norwich” event on 9/21, to pair with a regular NEC info table. Linda will follow up with NPL staff about a weatherization workshop in the fall, in conjunction with the annual Button Up campaign.

b. Electric Lawn Equipment: Charlie has scheduled outreach for Saturday 6/15, 10 am – 1 pm, at the transfer station; Charlie will line up people with electric equipment. In posts he will highlight that info on a wide range of home energy topics will be available. Agreement to display a sign on 6/15 with a QR code along these lines: Energy Questions? More info at [QR code link to a priority NEC web page].

c. WindowDressers: Linda confirmed that orders total 198 inserts and measuring for them is mostly complete. We can accept orders for about 20-30 more inserts. The key outstanding need is volunteers for the Build; agreement to contact Youth in Action, Linda will seek contact info for the YIA director.

3. Dan & Whit’s ChargePoint station: Linda reported that ChargePoint support wants to keep 40-amp breakers in the electrical panel; ChargePoint support replaced the “power plate” on 5/24. This has not fully fixed the station; Linda had to reset the breakers on 5/25 and Harry Falconer observed an error for the left port on 5/25. Harry is continuing to bird-dog repairs and is continuing to pull together information on station expenses and revenue. Interactions with users reveal that many are local residents and employees. Agreement that maintaining a Level 2 station in the village area is a committee goal. Linda also raised the idea of a Level 3 station; Harry is seeking a quote. If the cost is <\$50,000, perhaps a combination of tax credits and fundraising could make it worth considering, as a private/business venture.

4. IREC (Energy Coordinator): Linda reported that Harry Falconer is switching over the position title from “Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator” to “Shared Energy Coordinator,” and this is reflected in the town contracts for FY 25. Harry is working on the charging station, making contact with the DPW director, and (for all his towns) green procurement policy. He is using the Article 36 Task Force recommendations as his guide for Norwich work. The report on the MERP assessment of Tracy Hall is delayed because the state agency is prioritizing reports for high energy-burden towns. This deadline for the energy consultants is the end of June, meaning that Norwich’s report should be

delivered in July. Agreement to invite Harry to attend the NEC meeting in June or July; Erich will follow up.

5. Other Business:

- discussion of paying for an item in the Norwich Times; cost is \$400 for a ½ page in the 4 annual issues; agreement to try it out for the next issue (published 8/21, text due 7/26) with an article on volunteering at the WindowDressers Build. Erich moved, Rob seconded a motion to spend up to \$300 with the Norwich Times; approved unanimously. Erich will follow up with the editor, Rose Terami.
- discussion of how to use and promote various online calculators ([Rewiring America](#), RMI [Green Upgrade](#)); Eva suggested making a tutorial video, agreement to pursue. Linda and Charlie will work on this.
- Clean Cities Coalition request for community feedback to help prioritize new truck EV charging locations: Rob and Linda will plan to attend the Clean Cities presentation at the Hartford Energy Commission meeting on 6/27 (5 pm).
- Solar Siting subcommittee (Planning Commission): Rob summarized their ongoing discussion on siting, the subcommittee is not ready to move revisions forward. After discussion, Rob moved, Erich seconded a motion that Erich contact Jaan Laaspere to reiterate that the Energy Committee stands ready to assist them in developing appropriate solar siting guidelines.
- Sweetland Farm e-bike demos: the farm is hosting the 4 UVELL bikes on 6/7 and would welcome volunteers for that, and to add demos on 6/6 and 6/8.

6. Public comments, correspondence and announcements:

- Resident concern about overnight parking restrictions at EV charging stations: the NEC was copied on correspondence to the Town Manager from a resident who had a need to use the Huntley station overnight. There was agreement that the signs are generally appropriate, and that residents should be encouraged to notify the police if they need to legitimately use them overnight. Erich will follow up with the resident.

7. Adjourned at 9:02. The fourth Tuesday in June is 6/25.

submitted by Linda Gray