

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 6/25/24, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz (chair)
Staff: Harry Falconer, shared energy coordinator (until 8:00)

1. The 5/28 minutes and the 6/25 agenda (with items for Other Business) were approved by consensus.
2. Shared Energy Coordinator report: Harry reported that the last repair on the D&W charging station was on 6/7 with electrician Scott Millette, Next Level Electric (who does EV installs for GMP), and a ChargePoint tech subcontractor. Both feel that the problem is not with the electrical connections, but with the ChargePoint equipment. They switched the circuits between the left and right ports, to test if the failures also migrate; it's not clear yet. Harry is identifying EV charger options (keep ChargePoint Level 2; switch to another networked L2 charger; switch to a non-networked L2 charger; go for an L3 charger) to present to D&W managers. Discussion included agreement that an honor system for payment might work, as it does for farm stands; financing for an L3 station is a longer-term project (with utility interconnection, it could cost \$100,000). Consensus to offer support for any future station direction.

Harry reported on contacts with Norwich Sr. Housing and MCS to help them apply for a state EVSE [program](#) that funds L2 stations at workplaces and multi-family housing.

Harry reported that the contractors for the VT MERP program are focusing on completing building assessments for towns with high energy burdens by 7/1; reports for other towns will be delivered after that. Harry has talked with Town Manager Brennan Duffy about green procurement; Brennan is looking to connect with Selectboard member Roger Arnold as a first step.

Motion by Erich, seconded by Rob: that Harry outlines options for D&W to consider, if the store were to take over the charging station, for Harry, Erich, and Linda to present and discuss this summer; approved unanimously. Linda will contact Caroline Gollub at D&W about scheduling for later in July.

Motion by Linda, seconded by Erich: to approve paying from the NEC budget the expense for the 6/7 electrician work on the charging station; approved unanimously.

Upcoming events:

a. Electric Lawn Equipment: outreach for Saturday 6/29, 10 am – 1 pm, at the transfer station (rescheduled from 6/15) was postponed again, until August. Charlie has tested positive for Covid, leaving a gap in the volunteer schedule. Waiting until August allows Charlie time to contact Fogg's about a demo of various electric equipment. Charlie, spurred by questions by Tom, led a conversation about liability concerns for this, and similar, events – the conversation culminated in the decision that the Energy Committee's policy is for no equipment to be turned on. Linda has developed a poster: Start Your Home Action Plan / Electrify Everything / QR code to [this page](#); she will post at D&W, the bulletin board on Main Street opposite Tracy Hall, and the library, with copies available for NEC outreach.

b. NHS Fair (9/21): Erich contacted the VEEP staff presenter about scheduling a "walk-by" booth for this event and needs to send a reminder. NEC has materials, tent, and table for basic outreach.

c. WindowDressers: Linda confirmed that orders and measuring is in hand. We can accept orders for about 20-30 more inserts. Volunteers who have been shift supervisors are ready to do so again. Erich contacted Youth in Action about high school volunteers, needs to send a reminder to them as well.

4. Other Business:

- Linda reported that the Efficiency VT community engagement team has added capacity, and now the Windsor County contact is Brad Long, who may be able to attend the NEC July meeting.

- Linda noted that Sustainable Hanover is looking for a few additional volunteers with their e-bike demos on 7/1-2 on Dartmouth campus.

-Linda noted that discussion is progressing re Vital Communities organizing a workshop in which people brought their own bikes and added a motor and battery under the guidance of an instructor.

- discussion of paying for an item in the Norwich Times: based on discussion from the May meeting, Erich has confirmed with Rose Terami that it would cost \$400 for 450-500 words + photo in one issue. The plan is to submit an article on volunteering at the WindowDressers Build. Erich will confirm the deadline and publication date, and ask Terami to get an invoice to him ASAP so that payment can come from the FY24 budget.

Motion by Linda, Erich moved, seconded by Charlie to spend \$400 from the FY24 budget with the Norwich Times; approved unanimously. Erich will follow up with the editor, Rose Terami.

5. Public comments, correspondence and announcements:

Erich reported that he spoke with Planning Commission chair Jaan Laaspere to offer NEC feedback on proposed energy-related revisions to the Town Plan; edits related to solar siting will be presented by the Solar Siting subcommittee to the Planning Commission in July; Erich proposed that the NEC monitor that discussion and weigh in as appropriate.

6. Adjourned at 8:30. The fourth Tuesday in July is 7/23.

submitted by Linda Gray