

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee  
Tuesday, 7/23/24, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Tom Griggs, Erich Rentz (chair), Brad Wible  
Guest: Brad Long, community engagement manager, Efficiency VT (until 8:00)

1. The 6/25 minutes and the 7/23 agenda were approved by consensus.
2. Brad Long is now the EVT (Efficiency Vermont) contact for Windsor County. He outlined his goals to provide information to groups like energy committees and make connections. He recommended that we subscribe to EVT's partner newsletter <https://www.encyvermont.com/trade-partners/newsletters> and showed how to find printable materials on the EVT web site. Brad highlighted the significant new weatherization rebate (up to 75% of project costs based on income bracket). For the NHS Fair on 9/21, Brad suggested we request EVT participation, which might be one of the community engagement staff or EVT materials. Brad also emphasized the value of their free virtual home energy visits as the basic first step for homeowners. The committee can get annual energy-related stats from our regional planning commission; for Norwich, through Harry Falconer.
3. Upcoming events:
  - a. NHS Fair (9/21): Erich has confirmed that the VEEP staff presenter is available for a "walk-by" booth for this event, at a cost of \$200. Consensus to request EVT participation (either staff or materials), and to ask VEEP for details on the content of their booth and confirm with VEEP after our August meeting (when more members will be present).
  - b. WindowDressers: Linda reported that orders are nearly final at 134 inserts (only one order still to be measured) and 17 rewraps. Volunteers who have been shift supervisors are ready to do so again; she has begun emailing 2024 customers and 2023 volunteers about helping at the September Build. Erich confirmed that Youth in Action can promote this volunteer opportunity to high school students once they are back in school. Agreement for Linda to draft and Erich to submit to the Norwich Times an article pitching volunteers at the Build. The committee will pay \$400 for a ½ page article with 1-2 photos.
  - c. Transfer Station outreach: Agreement to schedule for 8/24, rather than the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Focus could be heat pumps, or weatherization, or just Home Energy Action Plans.
4. Dan & Whit's ChargePoint station: Linda reported that ChargePoint made an internal update or correction, and the station has been working reliably for 2+ weeks. Agreement for Erich and Harry Falconer to meet with Dan & Whit's managers to determine how they want to handle the station's ownership and maintenance.
5. Shared Energy Coordinator report: Harry Falconer's report was attached to the agenda; no additions.
6. Other Business:
  - Following up on Eva's suggestion from May about creating a video to help residents use the Rewiring America incentives calculator, Linda made a 27-minute cut from a VECAN/EVT webinar on the calculator. She will circulate that again to NEC members, for discussion in August.
  - The Thetford member of the SEC steering committee has shared her email to their zoning administrator, on ensuring that residents get info about building energy standards. We can use her outreach as a model – perhaps when Norwich has permanent planning staffer.

- NEC members noticed that materials in recent Selectboard packets have asked why the NEC has 7 members; Linda has provided information to the Town Manager and Asst. Town Manager regarding the Selectboard decision in 2018:

- <https://norwich.vt.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/SB-packet-06-27-2018.pdf>

p 84: memo from Linda Cook to SB, with proposed changes to the updated charge for Energy Committee as drafted by John Langhus

"3.4- The Energy Committee shall consist of 7 members"

p 87: John Langhus draft

- <https://norwich.vt.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Final-minutes-062718.pdf>

p 2: "SB members discussed some suggested changes to the charge language. Langhus moved (2nd Layton) to approve the Charge for the Energy Committee, as amended. Motion passed unanimously."

7. Public comments, correspondence and announcements: none.

6. Adjourned at 8:30. The next committee is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday in August: 8/27.

submitted by Linda Gray