

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 1/22, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Aaron Lamperti, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy
Guest: Charlie Lindner

Re Transportation, the collaboration with Vital Communities for January-April, is a focus on public transit. Susan Hardy is posting weekly on the listserv, weather-proof and Linda has put up laminated posters around town. Susan and Linda added transportation links to the NEC web site. Susan will ask Vital Communities if they have relevant and useful materials if we arranged for an info table at Town Meeting.

The next UVTMA meeting is 1/24, 4-5:30 pm at Lebanon City Hall; the agenda includes an update from AllEarth Rail <https://www.allearthrail.com/> Susan will followup on other transportation ideas for our next meeting.

Re Tracy Hall energy review, Aaron's contacts have raised the possibility that Tracy Hall is not a prime candidate for a deep energy retrofit. He is still trying to pin down answers; Linda will follow up with the performance contractor to get at least a preliminary response.

Norm Levy is trying to locate resources and advice for municipalities aiming to reduce energy use; he will compile the information he gets. Linda Gray floated the idea of Norwich and a town such as Thetford sharing a staff energy coordinator, as Hartford has. She suggested arranging for Town Manager Herb Durfee to meet with Leo Pullar, the retiring Hartford Town Manager, to better understand the costs and benefits of this staff position.

Re Weatherize, a total of 52 Norwich residents signed up for the EVT program. Most walk-throughs have not yet happened. EVT staff are tracking contacts between the contractors and homeowners; the EVT spreadsheet shows quite a few residents don't yet have a date set for their walk-through. Linda will email these homeowners to check in and confirm that they are not having trouble reaching the contractor.

Re Solarize, there was consensus that we should do a big push for solar, given that the federal tax credit will end, at 30% level, on 12/31/19. Agreement to invite Solaflect and Norwich Solar Technologies to the February or March meeting to discuss details; Linda will follow up.

Linda had learned from a Hartford resident's inquiry that Tesla is offering solar loans at 4.99% for 20 years, or 3.99% for 10 years. From his own experience, Aaron reported that Mascoma Bank offers 5.49% for up to \$40,000; he did not know the term.

Re Presentation proposals:

1) David Farnsworth, a staffer with the Regulatory Assistance Project (who spoke to NEC and other town energy committees in the fall), proposes to speak about Carbon Management. Linda saw his presentation in Hartland, confirmed that it is clear and informative, and that other energy committee folks were not in that audience. Consensus to pursue, and take David up on his offer to do it as a webinar. Linda will follow up with David.

2) a VT contact for Tesla proposes an event highlighting Tesla EVs, Tesla solar, and Tesla batteries. After some discussion, it was agreed to not pursue a Tesla-only event, but Linda will invite them to participate if we in future do an event featuring a variety of EV models.

3) Johanna Miller, VECAN coordinator, will propose that we host something during the Town Meeting break for the legislature; more details to come.

Other business:

- reminder that the next Enhanced Energy Planning Working Group meeting is 2/5, 7 pm
- Linda mentioned that some recent discussions with residents have raised some questions about whether the one-sort recycling at the Transfer Station is possibly producing unrecyclable recyclables. (See <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-era-of-easy-recycling-may-be-coming-to-an-end/>) A Conservation Committee member, Lynnwood Andrews, is doing some preliminary research. Linda will identify whether working in this area fits within the NEC charge.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 2/19/19 (one week early, to accommodate members' travel).

submitted by Linda Gray