

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 11/25/25, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz

1. The 9/23 minutes and the 11/25 agenda were approved by consensus. (There were no October minutes because there had been no quorum.)
2. Event debriefs:
 - a. WindowDressers Build (9/25-10/2): Linda reported that the Build was successful: 235 new window inserts for 33 households, 6 rewrapped inserts for 3 households, 1/3 of the inserts went to customers at a discounted price to match their budget, 118 volunteers, finished up one shift early. For 2026, there's agreement to continue with Lyme and Hanover; locating to the workspace at the CCDC church in Hanover is a possibility.
 - b. Norwich Historical Society collaboration (10/14): Erich reported that there were 20 participants for the online presentation. The video is online <https://norwichhistory.org/energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/>.
 - c. Button Up 2025: Rob reported on the outreach at the transfer station on 10/25, for which past NEC members Aaron Lamperti and Norm Levy were recruited to help with the outreach effort. It went well; there was a constant stream of residents; perhaps not as many in-depth questions. We had a gift bag from Efficiency VT as a prize, which Linda delivered to the drawing winner.
3. Tracy Hall energy upgrades: We have no updates; there was agreement for NEC members to review Selectboard packets and minutes to understand the status of planning. At our next meeting, we can review and decide whether to submit another memo to the Selectboard.
4. VECAN conference takeaways: There was discussion of the "Toolship" project from the Brandon Energy Committee: "a mobile tool lending cart ... designed ... to be compact and towable, potentially by an electric bike, allowing it to be moved to different neighborhoods so residents can more easily access the tools." <https://www.localminutes.org/highlights/brandon-expands-tool-lending-program> The Brandon committee is organizing 1-day workshops in 2026 offering a complete kit for \$6500 to make a Toolship, including solar panel, battery, inverter, wiring, software for lock, shed materials. Electric lawn equipment would be separate (~\$1800). Discussion centered on liability issues; Linda will contact the Brandon committee to learn how they handle that. The completed Brandon Toolship is part of their library; agreement to explore if the Norwich library might be interested as the host.
5. Energy Plan Working Group: Erich was contacted by Planning Commission chair Jaan Laaspere to invite NEC participation in the Planning Commission development of an enhanced energy plan for Norwich. (Background and guidance at <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/regulated-utilities/regulated-utility-planning-division/act-174-recommendations-and-determination>) Erich will circulate Jaan's memo to the NEC. Rob volunteered; Linda is available but will defer if others are interested. Rob moved, Charlie seconded, a motion to have the chair appoint 2 members of the committee to serve with the working group.
6. FY27 Budget: Erich received an email from Town staff asking for feedback on the proposed committee budget of \$1800. This amount aligns with the FY26 budget. There was agreement that the budget was appropriate. Erich will confirm with Town staff.

7. Shared Energy Coordinator Report: Linda reported on Harry Falconer's work on various EV chargers for his towns (Norwich, Thetford, Woodstock, Strafford) and other grant possibilities. In addition, Harry has been invited to work on the Municipal Energy Code Administration for Vermonters action proposal from the recent Energy Action Network summit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd_w2C04syc&t=3s. There was agreement for Erich to invite Harry to attend a future NEC meeting.

8. Other Business: none.

9. Public comments, correspondence and announcements: Charlie reported that NEC has been contacted by Sherry Boschert to help plan the 2026 Earth Week Open House. He and Linda Gray will volunteer.

9. Adjourned at 8:20. The fourth Tuesday in December is 12/23; given the holiday, Erich will find out if a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, 12/16, is feasible. All members present can attend on 12/16.

Submitted by Linda Gray