

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 12/16/25, 7 pm, via Zoom

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

1. The 11/25 minutes and the 12/16 agenda were approved by consensus. Linda noted that the 11/25 motion for the chair to appoint 2 members for the Planning Commission's enhanced energy work group was approved unanimously.

2. 2026 Early-Stage Planning:

From discussion there were these action items...

- Charlie will draft an outline for discussion at the January meeting.
- Regarding the Eat Low & Local campaign, Tom will review info and links on the NEC website for accuracy and possible updates; Brad will confirm whether the environmental educator at MCS is interested in a food-related project.
- The Lebanon Energy Advisory Committee is organizing a gathering of area energy committees on January 13, 1:30 – 3:30 pm, at the Lebanon Public Library, 9 E. Park St., Lebanon; Charlie and Linda expect to attend.
- Charlie and Linda will join in planning for a 2nd proposed Earth Week Open House tour.
- The Thetford Energy Committee will do a Zoom "Ask A Neighbor" session, which NEC members can observe.

3. Tracy Hall energy upgrades: A review of Selectboard minutes and packets shows that action is stalled at the discussion stage and that Tracy Hall issues include both energy upgrades and possible reconfiguration of internal spaces. Possible NEC actions include another memo to the SB; public comments at SB meetings; contacts with SB members. Erich will draft a memo for the January meeting.

4. Energy Plan Working Group: Erich appointed Rob Gere and Brad Wible as NEC participants in the Planning Commission's working group that will develop an enhanced energy plan for Norwich. Discussion of how to conform with open meeting requirements; an initial meeting will be scheduled for January, with a draft for public feedback in the spring. Linda will share with Rob and Brad correspondence with a Public Service Dept staffer that clarifies how the town renewable energy generation target was modeled, both in 2017 and 2025.

5. Shared Energy Coordinator Report: Linda reported that the fast-charging station that Harry Falconer helped on initially will be installed at Dan & Whit's this week; he will check with the Norwich Public Library on whether he can help with an application for a HUD Public Facilities Preservation Initiative [grant program](#) for public libraries. Funding for the SEC position is a line item (\$32,500) in the draft town budget for 2027. Harry is available to attend the January meeting.

6. Other Business: Charlie noted the details of the January 13 meeting of area energy committees; Linda noted details from Energy Action Network about their new initiatives. Regarding 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>) Linda learned that the Brandon Toolship is covered under their library's

insurance. The Norwich library is open to discussion about a collaboration, and Linda will meet with NPL staff in January; Erich may be able to join.

7. Public comments, correspondence and announcements: none

8. Adjourned at 8:10. The fourth Tuesday in January is 1/27.

Submitted by Linda Gray