

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 3/24/26, 7 pm, via Zoom

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

1. The 2/24 minutes and the 3/24 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Events

a. Virtual Ask A Neighbor session: Thetford presenters are available on Thursday, 4/16, 7-8:30 pm. Erich will confirm that our Zoom platform will be available; Charlie will manage list serv posts (as a feed-in to the Earth Week Open House on 4/25-26); Linda will feature on the NEC home page and invite other SEC towns to publicize.

b. UV Earth Week Open House: Charlie reported that sites are lined up (31 homes and businesses in 10 towns), and publicity is the main task now. Open House participants register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/upper-valley-earth-week-open-house-tickets-1981871369617?aff=oddtcreator> and get access to the site guide. Charlie will post; Linda will highlight on the web site.

c. May – Electrify Lawn Care: agreement to plan outreach at the transfer station; Charlie will ask about 5/9 and 5/16, then circulate a schedule for committee volunteers.

3. Energy Plan Working Group: Rob reported that the group is reviewing suggested changes; they will rely on TRORC energy usage data (despite its limitations). Recommendations from this group and from the separate Solar Siting group will go to the full Planning Commission. Rob raised the question of his continuing, given that as a Selectboard member he may be expected to resign from the Energy Committee. Charlie moved, Erich seconded, a motion that Rob continue to serve as an Energy Committee rep on the Enhanced Energy Plan working group as it completes its work; approved unanimously, with Rob abstaining.

4. Shared Energy Coordinator report: Linda reported that there is not much new since last meeting, Brian Kovalick from TRORC is supporting the Enhanced Energy Planning work, Harry is providing some support to the library with a HUD facilities grant, and to the SAU sustainability coordinator. There was agreement to ask Harry to develop a proposal for routine reporting of fossil fuel use across Town departments (as urged in the 2/26 group letter to the Selectboard). Linda will follow up with Harry.

5. Toolship: Linda sat in on a Woodstock meeting to discuss the Brandon, VT project (a solar-powered shed from which residents can check out EGO battery-operated lawn tools <https://brandonpubliclibrary.org/the-toolship/>). The Woodstock group has similar concerns about cost and need. They will perhaps undertake a survey to gauge need. Committee agreement to not pursue further.

6. Open Energy Committee positions: Due to job constraints, neither Erich nor Eva will reapply for the committee. Mary Albert has submitted an application. Erich will ensure that the April meeting agenda gets out.

7. Other Business: Rob noted that he hopes to get the Selectboard to move on the Article 36 task force recommendations; this would probably be taken up at their 4/22 meeting.

Charlie has had conversations with a couple buyers in the Solaflect Lunenberg solar farm, who have been disappointed by both operational problems and little communication from Solaflect. Discussion about how individual committee members could give feedback to Solaflect.

8. Public comments, correspondence and announcements: none

9. Adjourned at 8:15. The fourth Tuesday in April is 4/28.

Submitted by Linda Gray