

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee

Tuesday, 4/28/26, 7 pm, via Zoom

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

1. The 3/24 minutes and the 4/28 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Officer Elections: with vacant committee positions still to be filled, there was agreement to postpone officer elections; Erich will pass on details of Zoom log-in, agenda and minutes posting, and other procedures; Linda and Rob volunteered to see to them in the interim.

3. Events
 - a. Virtual Ask A Neighbor 4/16 debrief: Linda reported that the presentation by the 3 Thetford Energy Committee members went well, with good, clear slides and good information. There were only about 6 attendees, but video of the presentation is available on the NEC web site, and Thetford's as well, and has been shared with contacts in the other SEC towns.

 - b. UV Earth Week Open House: Charlie reported that 300 people registered for the Open House, stats on visits still to come from the main organizers. He had 5 visitors, who had detailed, specific questions; he estimates about 40 visitors to the Willing Hands tour.

 - c. May – Electrify Lawn Care: agreement to schedule outreach at the transfer station for 5/9, with 5/16 as a rain date; 4 NEC volunteers are available for both dates, plus various pieces of electric equipment. Linda will highlight the topic on the NEC homepage.

Also, Charlie noted that he will be moving out of Norwich in June, so will resign from the committee and need to pass on his regular tasks – weekly list serv posts, outreach scheduling, and monitoring the NEC Gmail account.

4. Energy Plan Working Group: Rob reported that the group is scheduled to meet 4/30; members will review language drafted by Planning Director Steven True and TRORC planner Bryan Kovalick.

5. Tracy Hall Energy Upgrades: Rob reported that the focus of the working group that Selectboard chair Kimo Griggs formed is the design / functionality of the working spaces in Tracy Hall, not energy upgrades for the building. Town energy issues will be the focus of a different working group that is not yet formed. There was agreement that this working group should be encouraged to pick up on the recommendations of the Article 36 Task Force.

6. Shared Energy Coordinator report: with little action on municipal energy initiatives, Linda reported that there is not much new since last meeting. There was agreement to ask Harry to develop a statement of work for data collection on fossil fuel use across Town departments. Linda will follow up with Harry.

7. Open Energy Committee positions: Mary Albert has been appointed to the NEC, could not attend today due to travel, but she's on the roster for May outreach at the transfer station. Discussion of other possible recruits.

8. Other Business: none

9. Public comments, correspondence and announcements: Linda summarized a recommendation on the biennial update to net-meter rates that solar advocates are concerned about; there was agreement to invite staff from Renewable Energy VT to a future meeting (when new members are on board), to give an overview of the status of renewable energy in the state.

10. Adjourned at 8:10. The fourth Tuesday in May is 5/26.

Submitted by Linda Gray