

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 7/28/26, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Mary Albert, Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Brad Wible

1. The 5/26 minutes and the 7/28 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Future Events/Outreach

a. Upper Valley Energy Roundtable: Mary reported on the Vital Communities gathering of Upper Valley town energy groups in early June, including a presentation on avoiding costly upgrades to electrical service, and a discussion on plug-in solar. In discussion, Linda noted that the VT law allowing plug-in solar ties it to safety certification for a complete system, rather than certification for the component parts. There was agreement to not do outreach on plug-in solar until there's certification for a complete system. Also, Linda reported on very preliminary discussions among the towns that work with Shared Energy Coordinator Harry Falconer, regarding a campaign to promote heat pumps. She hopes to have an update in August.

b. Rob suggested planning web presentations, similar to those the Cornish, NH, energy committee has done. No decisions on topics or who would organize.

c. Aaron reported that he's been participating in Selectboard chair Kimo Griggs' Tracy Hall working group, which is focused on options for spaces within the building. There might be recommendations this fall, with a building project that incorporates energy improvements to follow. There was agreement that the NEC should monitor this, to ensure improved energy efficiency and minimal use of fossil fuel.

4. Energy Plan Working Group: Brad reported that he had relayed feedback from NEC members to Planning Director Steven True. No additional meetings to report on; one may be scheduled next week.

5. Tracy Hall Energy Upgrades: discussion as reported for item 2.c. In addition, SEC Harry Falconer is now updating the recommendations of the Article 36 Task Force, which will ultimately dovetail with any Tracy Hall renovation project. Agreement to track progress, and keep residents informed.

6. Shared Energy Coordinator report: Linda reported from the July SEC steering committee meeting that Harry's time is being supplemented for Norwich by Bryan Kovalick with the Energy Plan Working Group, and by Ari Lattanzi on updates to A36 recommendations (particularly data on fossil fuel use). Harry is working on L2 charging stations with the ChargeVT grant program for multiple towns, including one for Norwich at the Public Safety building. Ari can do building audits for various buildings that did not already get one through the MERP program; for Norwich, the list includes DPW, Public Safety, and the library. Harry and Ari are jointly working on updates to A36 recommendations. Aaron noted that he can be an in-town liaison on the DPW and Public Safety buildings.

7. Committee organization: Tom Griggs resigned from the committee, due to the press of other commitments; Aaron has been appointed to the committee. Aaron was selected as chair by consensus. Mary will coordinate with Charlie Lindner on taking over listserv posts, which she will be able to get into in September. The committee can take at least 2 more members; current members to reach out to possible recruits.

8. Other Business: re inviting Renewable Energy VT to a future meeting, Linda recapped the recent PUC decision re net-metering rates and their upcoming rulemaking (September start?). Agreement to seek to hear from REV when policy-making timelines are known.

Linda updated the committee on WindowDressers: the Build will be 10/1-7 at the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College; orders for inserts are at our goal of 225; next task is to line up volunteers, Linda will do listserv posts; coordinators from Hanover and Lyme are prepared to take the lead at the Build.

9. Public comments, correspondence and announcements: Linda shared information about the informal networking of UV energy folks, "Climate Soiree," the 2nd Tuesday each month, 4:30 pm, at The Filling Station, 70 Gates St., WRJ.

10. Adjourned at 7:55. The fourth Tuesday in August is 8/25.

Submitted by Linda Gray