

## Charlotte Energy and Climate Action Committee

June 10, 2025, 7 - 9 pm

Location: Charlotte Library Porch

### Meeting minutes

**Attending:** Jim Hodson, Wolfger Schneider, Rebecca Foster, Mike Yantachka, Frank Tenney (Selectboard liaison), Deirdre Holmes (facilitating), Matt Burke (guest)

1. Matt Burke, guest, shared his UVM research project: a DOE-funded study about sufficiency (in terms of energy), from meeting basic needs to luxury use. Is there a way to make a determination at a group/town level to make decisions about energy use at town level? He is requesting participation in a pre-focus group discussion. He will reach out to interested members individually for a separate discussion.

2. May meeting minutes were approved.

3. Project Updates: Town Energy Modernization – a detailed conversation with a focus on public outreach planning, meeting with CVFRS, follow-up from meeting with green loan funding option from VT bond bank. Working backwards, the bond bank could make decision in early October, after the RFP process/receipt of quotes (late July), RFPs require Selectboard approval before being distributed (June). Then, Town needs to vote early Nov. to approve a green loan.

- Action item: Jim will connect with Tim regarding status of RFPs; Deirdre will ask Nate for time on upcoming SB mtg agenda.

- Action item: all asked to participate in multi-faceted public outreach plan. Jim will circulate drafts of various documents to review (whitepaper, articles for newspaper, update to website). Deirdre will make spreadsheet of town events/town organizations to share project info.

4. Project Updates: Library partnership opportunity. Deirdre shared email from Margaret to partner on 2025 Vermont Reads “The Light Pirate” event series with library. The book selected for this year a YA novel old in four parts—power, water, light, and time—”The Light Pirate” by Lily Brooks-Dalton is a meditation on the beauty and violence of an untamable wilderness. It considers the dissolution of the human-made world, and helps us see how connection, adaptability, and a little bit of magic might guide us to a new future. There is a strong theme of climate resilience. The library has tentatively decided to make climate/community resilience the theme for this fall. Motion passed *to officially co-sponsor with the library.*

5. Final budget decisions/updates: Deirdre shared that the bike repair station can be fully covered by a Rotary Club grant, therefore freeing up those funds. Jim has suggestions for technical support for the summer energy project. The recommended Midea saddle heat pump was recalled, so a replacement, non-saddle product was purchased instead. Sustainable Charlotte (a 501(C)3) welcomes donations to support low-income Charlotte households seeking insulating window inserts.

- Motion Passed: CECAC will allocate *up to \$999 for WindowDressers donation to help Charlotte households seeking insulating window inserts.*
- Motion Passed: CECAC will allocate *up to \$999 for technical supports for summer intern’s energy opportunity survey.*

Adjourned: 9:04pm

Next meeting: July 8, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre Holmes