

Charlotte Energy Committee

Jan 3, 2024

Attending: Committee members: Mike Yantachka, Rebecca Foster, Wolfger Schneider, Deirdre Holmes, Suzy Hodgson; Selectboard liaison Frank Tenney, Margaret Woodruff (visitor), Maggie Citarella (visitor)

1) Minutes from 12/4/2023 meeting were approved.

2) Margaret Woodruff, Charlotte library director, described her efforts in leading the library towards Certification of “Sustainable Libraries Initiative”. The certification covers a wide range of categories in the three areas of the “triple bottom line” - social equity, environmental responsibility, and economic viability. The areas include policy work, building and green infrastructure (e.g. rain garden), transportation (no idling), carpooling. In the area of building energy use, EC member, Wolfger has been helping improve the energy efficiency of the library’s HVAC and heat pump operation. Margaret welcomes anyone able to help with remaining steps. Library is also expanding its “library of things” and welcomes ideas and donations of additional items to help townspeople save energy.

3) Discussion about reinstating link to EC approved minutes – Frank is aiming to find out how the minutes can be displayed and archived and says Town should be able to reinstate the link to the data given they are public documents and need to be available if requested. Deirdre will follow up with Nate.

4) Solarize Charlotte project wrap up – Discussion of future format, likely without a coordinator. Two participants expressed concerns about GMP. Rebecca to reach out to Wegman and Mudge and suggest they attend Feb mtg to describe their experience.

5) The Town’s EV charger has been a success. Town Clerk Mary Mead said the revenue from the Town EV charger for 2023 was \$1269.43.

6) Deirdre has received the new supplies for weatherization, will add to library inventory, and post reminder on FPF.

7). CCRPC Project: Deirdre provided update. DuBois & King is running their first conversations day on January 11 with different community including senior center, school, library, Sustainable Charlotte, etc following by an evening for businesses. On January 25, Larry invites all town committees to attend PC mtg to discuss the Villages project from 7-8.

Discussion about how conversations will be organized and generated and whether enough attention will be given to imagining and anticipating future needs.

8) New members – Mike to ask people who took advantage of weatherization program if they're interested in the EC. Perhaps James Fox – he was very supportive of Solarize project. Maggie offered: Scooter at the Charlotte News has reached out to the CC about posting our vacancy announcements.

Rebecca to reach out to student member Julian re: his participation.

9) Municipal Energy Resiliency Plan (MERP) – While Charlotte doesn't qualify for funding due to median income qualification, there may still be tech assistance grants for \$4,000: <https://bgs.vermont.gov/municipal-energy-resilience-program>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzy Hodgson