

Charlotte Energy Committee

March 6, 2024

7-9 pm on zoom

Attending: Rebecca Foster, Wolfger Schneider, Suzy Hodgson, Julian Sicotte, Deirdre Holmes (facilitator), Jim Hodson (guest), Frank Tenney (Selectboard liaison)

1. Feb 7, 2024 meeting minutes approved
2. Introduction of guest and prospective CEC member Jim Hodson
3. Project updates:
 - EV Charging – Thanks to subcommittee for quick work exploring fast charging option at Mt Philo, Route 7 town trailhead, and ferry parking lot. Awaiting response from park service, however this funding opportunity expired on Feb 29.
 - Solarize Survey – Rebecca reported we had 40 respondents. Discussion around whether to run campaign another year and possible expiration of community solar incentives. Jim and Julian with support from Rebecca will explore options in hopes of running Solarize Charlotte 2024.
 - CCRPC transportation study – Deirdre encouraged all to fill out the visual preference survey and join community design charrette on March 16 from 9-12. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/de97ae36c14a4d2c9ef6e3b8ee7678f5>
4. Current FY budget considerations:
 - Wolfger presented his town building energy usage report and pointed to Winhall's energy dashboard. Charlotte library doing well all electric, senior center and town hall have large oil component, with larger overall energy use. Solar panels have been installed on garage, not yet commissioned. After some discussion, decided to continue to track usage, especially town garage, for few more months, and then present information and/or write article.
 - Wolfger also looked at EV charger fee structure and recommends raising cost/kWh to charge to cover admin and potential repair costs.
 - Crosswalk improvement project – We have 2 estimates under \$10K (not including labor); Current available budget is \$13K; Margaret posted RFP following town purchasing policy. Awaiting more precise estimates before voting on CEC contribution.
 - MERP grant application – Deirdre is in touch with Nate to submit this simple application to support a community active transport campaign.
 - Earth Month – Discussion of possible events CEC could offer to add to series during April. Ideas considered: show a film, Solarize launch, an event at solar shed, education/road signs on how to conserve gasoline, letter writing campaign, ribbon-cutting for solar on the town garage (Rebecca to ask Jim F), film all the projects (Julian?), an educational monitor to reflect solar array generation/usage in real time.
 - Conservation Corner/Library of Things – consider possible additions
5. Climate Action/Energy Cmt – Ann Janda hosted a Chittenden County roundtable on topic of adding "climate" to committee name. She suggested reading town hazard mitigation plan in addition to energy plan. All town plans listed here:

<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation-plan>. Shelburne has started a Climate Action and Energy Cmt. Discussion expanded to include interest in including food and soil health under “energy.” The Town Plan includes consider forming a food and farming committee in the implementation table.

6. AOB – Senior Center Fair on May 22, 3-5 – Rebecca to confirm table reservation. Perhaps together with WindowDressers and/or Efficiency Vermont.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm

Next mtg: April 3

Respectfully Submitted,
Deirdre Holmes