

Charlotte Energy Committee Minutes

April 3, 2024

7-9 on zoom

In attendance: Wolfger Schneider, Suzy Hodgson, Julian Sicotte, Rebecca Foster, Jim Hodson, Mike Yantachka, Deirdre Holmes (facilitator), Frank Tenney (Select Board liaison), Bill Stuono (visitor)

Introductions, membership updates, and committee administration. Upcoming member (re)appointments: Jim, Rebecca, Mike and Suzy. Mike offered to act as chair next month, May 2024. Motion Passed: Deirdre will serve as committee chair for a year: June '24-'25.

March meeting minutes were approved.

Wolfger made recommendation to increase EV charging rate. Motion Passed: The Charlotte Energy Committee proposes that the per kWh charge being levied by the Chargepoint EV charger be increased from the current \$0.19/kWh to \$0.25/kWh to cover the current cost of electricity plus the 10% Chargepoint administrative fee plus 10% for any future charger maintenance and repair costs. This action will prevent the Town from subsidizing private charging. Based on last year's reimbursement of \$1269 by Chargepoint for electricity supplied, the maintenance and repair portion would represent around \$126 per year. The cost/kWh should be reviewed annually.

Charlotte Earth Month

Series of events: <https://bit.ly/3Ve7hzz>

Discussed events of particular interest:

- April 13: Town Solar Ribbon-Cutting (Deirdre to ask Nate and Jim for town's details, including when panels go online.) Patrick, story-teller from SunCommon created a social media post promoting Charlotte's town solar array on the garage. CEC suggests a Solar Connectons, plug connecting instead ribbon cutting. Suggests event be at 11am, Rebecca will speak.
- April 22: Sustainable Charlotte Story-telling at Library. Suzy will speak to origin story of CEC.
- April 27: Town-wide Earth Celebration. CEC will have info table: Weatherization materials, insect hotel making, could also include information (as available) for Solarize '24.

Solar Discussion:

Mike spoke with David Blittersdorf about his solar panel sale. Discussion of potential town locations the Grange or Beach House. Mike awaiting more info from David, including design and cost estimates. Jim talked to GMS, who is eager to participate in another Solarize year. Jim also reached out to Building Energy and SunCommon. Bristol Electric was suggested as another potential local installer. Questions regarding incentive program and the pros/cons of more than one installer remain. Can we incentivize all participants?

CCRPC project – Deirdre provided quick update: the visual preference survey has been extended, encourages participation. There will be a remote charrette on April 10 from 6-8pm; and village residents focus group mtgs on April 11. The town and project websites have been updated to acknowledge our contribution, and highlight transportation issues.

Budget discussion/approvals:

Crosswalk improvement project: Project budget is \$10,350, and CEC can still contribute.

CEC website: domain and plan about to expire. domain 3 years for \$39; renew at \$13/month for 3 years for \$468. Staying with WIX, for a total of \$507. Discussion about integrating as part of the town website in future. Jim will ask Larry. Motion Passed: the CEC will allocate \$507 of current budget for website domain and plan costs for 3 years. Fee will be initially paid by Rebecca Foster by due date, to be reimbursed by town from CEC budget.

An educational panel to track town solar generation/consumption: The library is interested in hosting such a panel for public education. Margaret knows of libraries where such a monitor is very popular. Wolfger will meet with Suzanna and Margaret to determine precise needs and costs for further discussion/vote in May mtg.

Additional budget considerations: conservation corner additions and solar connections event.

Frank confirmed that so long as funds are within budget, committees can use funds as they see fit, provided town purchasing policy is followed whenever a purchase is over \$1000.

Rebecca requested someone take over website management. Mike, familiar with WIX, offered to do so.

Adjourned: 9:04pm

Next mtg: May 1, to be facilitated by Mike.

Respectfully submitted,
Deirdre Holmes