

1                   **REGULAR BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
2                   **August 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm**  
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4                   **Present:** Elaine Wang, Chair; Conor Teal, Vice-Chair; Phil Cecchini  
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6                   **Staff:** Janet Shatney, Planning Director  
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8                   **Visitors:** Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies, LLC; Brad Long, Efficiency Vermont; Amanda Carlson,  
9                   Capstone

10                  1. **Call to Order**

11                  The Regular Meeting was called to order in-person and via video platform by Vice-Chair Teal  
12                  at 5:31 pm.

13                  2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Adjustments were made to accommodate those present.  
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15                  3. **Visitors and Communications (for something not on the agenda):** None.  
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17                  4. **Old Business**

18                  A. **Approve meeting minutes of May 24 and July 26, 2021**

19                  Motion by Cecchini and seconded by Wang to approve both sets of minutes, motion  
20                  carried.

21                  B. **Update on Transportation**

22                  Wang noted she was in contact with Jamie Smith at Green Mountain Transit, and  
23                  VTrans is requiring them to put out a survey process to all communities, cannot just  
24                  choose us, so we may or may not be chosen to be the next pilot program.

25                  Wang asked about the charge given by the City Council, that the landlord focus group  
26                  did not feel energy efficiency was a big of a problem as the Council seems to be  
27                  making it. She proposed to focus first on efficient use of energy, then talk about  
28                  predictability, then find the regulatory and non-regulatory incentives last. Sachs felt  
29                  this charge is beyond the scope of a 3-member volunteer group, and outside assistance  
30                  is necessary to give the City Council a fair, comprehensive answer.

31                  Amanda Carlson was present to speak to what is happening at Capstone for  
32                  transportation. She was hoping to get some feedback from the committee. She  
33                  outlined how the transportation initiative came about (by Cecchini), and she was  
34                  brought on to help build it up. A transportation needs assessment was completed by  
35                  RSG, and just received the final report that she shared. 700 respondents, and 450  
36                  were the focus of the information. 35% of the respondents have unmet transportation  
37                  needs, and 15% don't have a vehicle at all (no driver's license). 18% of respondents  
38                  said they have a disability. 1:4 Vermonters are disabled. She shared some of the  
39                  interactive maps of which one was especially autos per household.

48           **C. Landlord Initiative and Council Charge**

49           Long said meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup> was very productive, got great feedback. What he  
50           heard from landlords is if including heat is part of the rent, then its simple math and  
51           rents will go up; a central heating system would be installed and then efficiency is  
52           lost. The opportunity he identified from the conversation is two-fold: doing any full  
53           scale weatherization to a building would mean that the building needs to be empty to  
54           get it done; and a list could be provided by the City of all the empty and vacant  
55           buildings so that could be taken advantage of.

56  
57           He suggested having a skeleton outline of the campaign that has precipitated from  
58           the landlord focus group written up so that the next meeting regarding it could be  
59           more efficient. Thanks were given to Sachs for this idea and seeing it come to  
60           fruition. And, based on the letters sent to all landlords and property managers, he has  
61           at least 12 interested owners doing various things like posing questions, scheduling  
62           walkthroughs and networking with him.

63           **D. Update on energy engagement appendix**

64           Sachs stated that she did not have the time to work on it, and will work on it for the  
65           next meeting. The committee members stated they did not get to the homework set  
66           out for them by the last meeting either, but will try for the next meeting as well.

67           **E. Community Visit**

68           Wang reminded everyone to try and attend something at the community visit on  
69           Wednesday, August 25. Shatney pointed out the revised flyer also shows that each  
70           and every forum now has a Zoom link to you can participate remotely if so chosen.

71           **5. New Business:**

72           Sachs spoke to a grant application her business is completing for the "Walk to Shop"  
73           campaign. There are shopping trolleys that are going to be purchased and distributed, and  
74           she was inquiring if the committee would be interested in assisting providing the trolley  
75           opportunity in Barre City. A pop-up at the Farmer's Market was suggested, everyone was  
76           on board.

77           **6. Roundtable:**

78           Teal said he had a conversation with someone from Revitalizing Waterbury, where they  
79           completed business walk-throughs with EVT and the way they did it. The resources were  
80           shared with Teal and said we could use them if we wanted to, and would like to see  
81           something done.

82           **7. Adjourn:**

83           Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm by Wang, seconded by Teal, motion carried.

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85           The meeting was recorded by the ZOOM video conference platform.

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87           Respectfully submitted,  
88           Janet E. Shatney, Planning Director