

To be approved at the 7/27/20 meeting

**Barre City Energy Committee
Special Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2020**

Committee Members Present: Conor Teal, Phil Cecchini, Elaine Wang, Romni Palmer

Committee Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Janet Shatney, Planning Director

Visitors: Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies; LLC; Brad Long, Efficiency VT

1. **Call to Order** – 5:34 p.m.
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.
3. **Visitors and Communications (for something not on the agenda):** None.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Discuss plan to revise energy plan:** E. Wang inquired of D. Sachs to see if she has time and desire to assist in writing our energy plan, tailored to Barre City. What CVRPC wrote was tailored to the City, but it needs further work to add the community engagement and what we've learned. Doesn't have the roadmap as to how to create a more tailored energy plan based on the state goals. How do we meet the goals? What is the role of the committee in editing it, and a roadmap of the intention. Much discussion occurred on how would the City even meet those goals, the evaluation of the end result. Need to know the biggest bang for our buck based on the energy initiatives. J. Shatney to speak to this task at the Council/Department meeting Tuesday June 23, 2020.

R. Palmer asked for clarification of this item, and E. Wang outlined the purpose of D. Sachs work with the committee and her assistance; thinking that it might be possible to pair D. Sach's work with the report from the energy engagement into the plan.
 - b. **Meeting Minutes Review and Approval: for the following**
 - **January 27, 2020**
 - **February 9, 2020**
 - **February 24, 2020**
 - **March 1, 2020**
 - **March 15, 2020**
 - **March 23, 2020**
 - **April 27, 2020**
 - **June 3, 2020**

The April 27, 2020 meeting minutes were missing some language, and it was decided to revise on page 3 to replace: energy committee discussed ideas for energy campaign.

Motion by C. Teal and seconded by P. Cecchini with edits to the 4/24, motion carried with

E. Wang abstaining.

- c **Barre Targeted Community update from Efficiency Vermont:** B. Long updated, that there is a scheduled walk with City and GMP on July 1 to go through city buildings, approx. 12 of them, and he will be able to give the City representatives some ideas of projects that could take place and prioritize them. We have \$4K that can be spent on energy efficiency upgrades.

Working with non-profits, Good Samaritan Haven, and SACT. Approaching another one, CareNet Pregnancy Services. He went over the great incentives that are going on right now. Mayor has completed his home energy visit, learned a lot, and a contractor lives not far from him. Looking at different ways to promote these. There are only 4 home energy visits performed in the City, we still have 96 to go!

Worked on the postings and created them to be shorter and more attention grabbing. Not sure how effective FPF is; been offering 1-hour webinars, gave an example in Brandon and Brattleboro, and would be more than happy to do them for Barre City and Barre Town residents, just not sure if we can generate an audience. Will keep working on the information and may trim more or expand on others.

We will not be hosting the ZEM home tour, the modular home we were going to have brought to the city to get folks a visual of energy products, due to Covid-19.

- d. **Update from Efficiency Vermont on USDA grant program promotion:** B. Long has no update on this at the moment. Not in partnership with the USDA, but EVT does have agricultural incentives occurring, like tomato grow lights. Shatney will connect Long and Sachs with a name/number to see if a bridge can be made.
- e. **Community engagement on energy plan updates from EcoStrategies:** D. Sachs gave an update, and should be asking for more Facebook likes, shares, this is where we might be lacking. D. Sachs would like to improve the header on Facebook, could have some added improvement if okay with the Committee. Also, on the City's page she has some tweaks and added links that might help. They will be sent a week before the next meeting.
- f. **Discuss survey results:** Each committee member went through their takeaways. P. Cecchini took note that the sweetspot of the survey were homeowners aged 50-55, and not a huge cross-section of the city residents. E. Wang noted that the survey demographic occurred on voting day, and there are specific folks that attend the polls.

E. Wang would like to discuss next time who we can speak to, to attain the stakeholder suggestion by D. Sachs. Need to add these emails to a distribution list and be able to send things out strategically. E. Wang asked someone to draft a script or template, and D. Sachs said she would author something, and talk with her intern to see if a draft could be made. With the open-ended responses (write-ins), could they be analyzed, and D. Sachs will do that, and make them sector specific.

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B. Long left the meeting to attend to a potential flash flood near his home.

5. New Business: None.

6. New Topics for Discussion: None this meeting.

7. Roundtable: P. Cecchini noted a workshop that just was notified to all, that he shared to the committee before the meeting, and E. Wang asked if C. Teal and R. Palmer could attend, folks will try. He also spoke to the Capstone \$5,000 incentive to acquire hybrids that is now on hold and the person that was working on it has moved from the area. P. Cecchini will be reenergizing this idea this fall. D. Sachs spoke of the micro-transit program is with Montpelier and VTrans. J. Shatney gave the update that there is a little amount of money in the Energy Committee's fund to spend on energy related items.

7. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Palmer and seconded by Cecchini at 7:31 pm, motion carried.

DRAFT