

To be approved at the Aug. 24, 2020 meeting

**BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes from July 27, 2020**

**Committee members present:** Elaine Wang, Chair; Conor Teal, Vice-Chair, Romni Palmer, Phil Cecchini

**Committee members absent:** None.,

**City Staff present:** Janet Shatney, Planning Director

**Visitors:** Brad Long, Efficiency Vermont; Deb Sachs, Ecostrategies, LLC

1. **Call to Order** – 5:34 p.m.
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Wang stated the agenda would adjust to accommodate the tax bill flyer discussion, and Long and Sachs having limited time for their discussions.
3. **Visitors and Communications (for something not on the agenda):** None.
4. **Old Business**
  - a. **Review and approval of June 22, 2020 meeting minutes:** Minutes for approval were postponed to the next meeting so that members have time to review.
  - b. **Discuss energy plan community engagement actions**
    - **Check in on Barre City Energy Survey follow ups:** Cecchini said he called all on his list, and only got through to some with few call backs, and left messages. Teal sent out emails to his list, and had received no responses to date. Chair Wang asked him to follow up with calls. Palmer emailed her list, and got some responses, and 1 bounce-back and will follow up with phone calls. Chair Wang asked that all commit to making their follow-up calls this same week as this meeting.
    - **Discuss how to obtain input from renters:** Teal thought a flyer might be something worthwhile to use. Wants to bridge the gap between landlords and tenants. Long suggested reviewing the cleaning and how to videos on YouTube.
    - **Discuss how to obtain input from landlords:** see above.
  - c. **Update from Efficiency Vermont:** Long updated the committee that EVT will cover the cost of the tax bill stuffer, that it will be double-sided, one about weatherization in general, and the other about the ongoing virtual home energy visit. 7 people have responded and signed up for a home visit (non-profits and businesses, few residents). He offered kudos to Wang for her presentation to the Council with great dialog, as he was out of state on personal business and couldn't attend with her.

Long also said that his role has expanded so that he is working with more energy

committees throughout the state, so he continues to be a great resource and we can continually learn from him. Cecchini stated that he is very appreciative of all the work Long is doing for the City of Barre.

**d. Update from EcoStrategies, discussion of priorities for remainder of contract**

Sachs said she had read the energy plan that is embedded in the municipal plan, and had some suggestions for edits. Of her assessment of how we are doing so far, she went through the strategies and items on her work list. She noted that under community vision, we've not advanced around that topic yet. She will share a working document on her engagement summary as to what still needs to be done. Chair Wang noted that her contract time ended in January, but have been doing work beyond that time, noted she got to the social media tips that she had on her proposal.

Chair Wang asked the committee how would we get the most of Sach's contract given her expertise and experience? Teal suggested getting the survey back out to more people; Palmer had no suggestions as she thought a lot was gained from Front Porch Forum already; Cecchini suggested honing the external messages and getting them out on our own external networks would be the best way to go. Doesn't want to use up Sach's time, but the talk of the guidebook, or a roadmap, like a strategic direction with goals would be best coming from Sachs.

Sachs thanked everyone for the follow-up, and will come up with a plan.

**e. Discuss municipal energy data information from CVRPC/EVT:** The energy goals in the plan are not widely known, and that there isn't a huge awareness of this. We would be successful in getting the survey out.

**f. Status of any other funds, and discussion of what to spend it on if so:** discussion on the remainder of the funds occurred and that there will be about \$2,000 left after paying Sach's contract.

5. **New Business:** none.

6. **Roundtable:** Palmer said with the heat temperature that day, too bad there wasn't a way to save it all for the winter. Cecchini said that the electric car program at Capstone is being reinvigorated and available soon. Teal asked that the city website be updated now that the officers were chosen.

7. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm by Cecchini and seconded by Palmer, *motion carried.*