

REGULAR BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, September 28, 2020 at 5:30 pm
Remote Participation via ZOOM

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

Committee members absent: None

Visitors: Brad Long, Efficiency Vermont; Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies, LLC; Nancy Wolfe, resident

1. **Call to Order:** 5:38 p.m. on the video conference platform ZOOM.
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.
3. **Visitors and Communications** (*for something not on the agenda*): Nancy Wolfe, Deb Sachs and Brad Long were in attendance.
4. Old Business
 - a. **Review and approval of August 24, 2020 meeting minutes.** Motion made by R. Palmer and seconded by C. Teal to approve the minutes, *motion carried unanimously*.
 - b. **Committee member check-in, availability.** Committee member check in: E. Wang asked what everyone's availability would be in the next 2 months what are the schedules, and availability to do postings, networking. Each member discussed what time they had available to devote to energy committee work.
 - c. **Energy Plan community engagement survey – fall push.** E. Wang asked if everyone had a chance to review the document, and D. Sachs gave a brief summary. Comments received included respondents could be more renters and young families, with discussion ensuing regarding the timing of the survey, where would be the hotspots to get target audience to participate. Response from members included asking the library to put a card in each lended book, a flyer with rip-offs posted in various locations, and cards available at the pharmacy, grocery, liquor store, hardware store, and auto repair shops, HVAC/heating oil/propane companies to pass along to their customers, the neighborhood watch leaders, and finally sending out to all Barre City landlords which J. Shatney can get a list. Ultimately, what needs answering was what is the goal, how many more do we intend to reach?

E. Wang liked the approach, the schedule and the timeline. D. Sachs noted the prizes were all ideas, and has only gotten the gift card so far. No other member had a suggestion as to a prize, other than do all gift cards so winners could do what they wanted with it.

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The decision made was that the end of survey date is to be Nov. 8, 2020 and the beginning date will be October 5, 2020, and the schedule will be adjusted accordingly. J. Shatney suggested getting something in the Council's Friday packet as far as a memo, and will check with the Mayor on survey acceptability, as well as if he thinks coming to Council for a brief update would be good. *[It is noted that the Committee and Staff were unaware at the time of the meeting that Council will not be meeting on October 6, until the compilation of these minutes.]*

- d. **Discuss Energy Plan community engagement scope of work change.** All members present were fine with the scope revision, noting more reasonable fundraising might be a good idea. D. Sachs noted she was technically out of budget 2 months ago, but is willing to continue, as there is much to do and be a part of.

- e. **Update from Efficiency Vermont (EVT).** B. Long noted that the incentive funds have changed, and are now lower due to participation using up budget. The uptake for home weatherization has been tremendous and unprecedented. EVT is starting to close out the year, and has incentive dollars needing to be spent. The A/C recycling funds were done within a month., and now is the Button-Up 2020 program. This Button-Up is more of an awareness campaign, and builds on what folks are already doing, but hope for an uptick in home energy visits. B. Long noted that approximately 12 home energy visits in Barre City have occurred so far, and were hoping for 100. He suggested that the energy committee reach out to friends, neighbors and relatives and others to help spread the word. He noted that some of the GMP incentives are still in play, and to reach out to GMP. Finally, if the committee still wants energy tip Tuesdays, he will continue to do so. B. Long had made some suggestions to the City to use the \$4,000 incentive, i.e., lights at the Aud, pool pumps, the new boiler, but were not used. He noted the EVT contract with the City is done at the end of December, and has suggested to continue to work with us in 2021, and is waiting to see if EVT will let him continue. Wants further ideas, open to any ideas that we are wanting him to do. B. Long also stated what helps are testimonials and repetitive information to get through to folks. E. Wang asked B. Long to do calendar pushes for Energy Tip Tuesdays, and he agreed. Talk of doing video testimonials occurred, and B. Long was up for that.

5. New Business

- a. **Discuss solar with Unitarian Universalist Church.** Nancy Wolfe reached out to E. Wang, asking what would it look like to put solar up on the church roof, that the leaders of the church are very excited about it. She has been wanting to have solar to invest in, on her own personal house, and her roof faces the wrong direction. It was suggested that maybe the church wants to have solar. Then, open it up to others so that everyone could be a part of it (called net metering, and community solar project). Incentives are not very good at this moment, but would really like to know how to make it happen.

Mrs. Wolfe wants to start a community solar project so that she can personally join and be a part of it. She wanted to know of any developers, and E. Wang said to

93 look at Renewable Energy Vermont that is a trade association, www.revermont.org
94 that a good place to start. They have a member list, narrow by County, then have
95 a member list. She noted that the first step would be to have the church approach
96 some developers, found on the list. She was thankful for the participation.
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98 b. **Button Up campaign action steps.** C. Teal said there were some very interesting
99 things to do, templates on line for FPF posts, listserv posts, registration for zoom
100 meetings and webinars (promote them). There are 9 events to be promoted, and each
101 committee member took 2 events, by promoting 3 days before, and then 1 day after.
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103 c. **City Facebook page.** The mayor emailed various committee chairs, E. Wang being
104 one, to get an idea if the City were to consolidate all the Facebook pages onto one,
105 essentially merging the various pages with the City's main page. No members felt
106 adversely to it.
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108 6. **Adjourn.** Motion made by P. Cecchini and seconded by R. Palmer to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.
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111 There is an audio recording available, and the meeting was recorded by the video conference
112 platform.
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114 Respectfully submitted

115 Janet E. Shatney, Planning Director
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