

To be approved at the May 24, 2021 regular meeting

REGULAR BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 26, 2021 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 and Tim Perrin, Efficiency Vermont; Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies, LLC; Jamie Smith, Green Mountain Transit

1. **Call to Order:** 5:34 p.m. on the Zoom Video conferencing platform

2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Adjustments were made to accommodate those in attendance.

3. **Visitors and Communications** (for something not on the agenda): None.

4. Old Business

- a. MyRide Pilot Program Check-in – Jamie Smith, Director of Marketing and Planning for Green Mountain Transit (GMT)

Ms. Smith stated that the first quarter of service took a lot of adjustment and the ridership is now on par with the regular ridership, which is very encouraging.

The grant application submitted last week is to support 14 feasibility studies, of which GMT has asked to do 2. She said that Barre City (and the surrounding communities of Barre Town and Berlin) are still the logical next step in the pilot program to expanding MyRide. Talk of a Council created from local community partners is in the works, and hopes once formed will be able to get right to work. Of note, MyRide would replace the Hospital Hill commuter bus, so there are several nuances that will need to be reviewed. A list of partners would be a great first step, and E. Wang said she would create it and get it to the Director so it could be forwarded to Ms. Smith.

Questions on what was the most difficult update, and ridership data was asked of. Ms. Smith said the biggest adjustment came from those locations in Montpelier that have housing, and learning to coordinate the ride if not using the app. And, since it's a free ride at the moment, there is no ridership data currently, other than normal trips per day.

- b. **Update from Efficiency Vermont, Brad Long on the tenant/landlord campaign, council charge to evaluate heat ordinance and any other:** B. Long introduced T. Perrin, who is well known among most of the members of the committee as he was the former EVT consultant. T. Perrin worked with city staff in 2020 identifying projects that could be energy efficient corrections and work. In partnership with the \$4,000 grant, one of the items on the list could be utilized. DPW engineering technician Elijah Morgan has taken

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47 on this task and he has identified a heat pump potential in either the finance office or the
48 clerk's office for this grant.

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50 B. Long said he is available for any engagement strategies the committee is working on
51 and can assist the city as well. He is participating in the May 19, 2021 Housing Forum
52 being put on by Councilors Jake Hemmerick and Ericka Reil, and will have a speaking
53 time. He did state that the leads that he could assist people from need to come from the
54 locals, and also asked for a committee member to assist, of which P. Cecchini volunteered.
55 He asked for a landlord contact list, and the Director emailed the most recent Barre City
56 rental registration list to him.

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58 c. Approval of Minutes from the regular committee meetings on February 22, 2021 and
59 March 22, 2021; and the special committee meeting on March 13, 2021.

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61 R. Palmer made the motion and was seconded by C. Teal to approve the minutes from
62 February 22, 2021, *motion carried*.

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64 R. Palmer made the motion and was seconded by P. Cecchini to approve the minutes
65 from March 13 and March 22, 2021 meetings, *motion carried with E. Wang abstaining*.

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67 **NEW BUSINESS A & B: ACTION ITEM: Special meeting to be held on Sunday May 9th**
68 **at 8:00 am to discuss implementation of FY2 priorities.**

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70 d. **Update on Roadmap action table appendix and draft – Deb Sachs.** Discussion
71 occurred over the Roadmap table, who had reviewed, who still needed to. She feels the
72 table is in good shape, and a few items could be pulled out to make infographics. The
73 Roadmap is approx. 80-85% complete. E Wang stated that its time that the committee
74 commit to reading all of it through, and start working on these items, and the D. Sachs has
75 done an incredible amount of work that the committee should get in to. She will check in
76 on the Special Meeting on May 9 to see if anyone has any questions, and will be in
77 attendance at the May 24th regular meeting.

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79 e. **Discuss presentation or priorities to Council.** E. Wang wanted to be sure that C. Teal
80 and R. Palmer were ready for their presentation on May 25, and to start with reading the
81 FY22 priorities and start with an overarching explanation before drilling in. More
82 discussion will take place on this at the May 9 special meeting, and if the two need to talk
83 between themselves, please do so.

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85 **5. New Business – see above**

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87 **6. Roundtable:** None.

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89 **7. Adjourn:** Motion made by C. Teal and seconded by R. Palmer to adjourn at 7:39 pm.

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Respectfully Submitted,
Janet E. Shatney, Planning Director