

Energy Committee Minutes

January 16 , 2019

6 – 9 PM

Ten Stones Community, Common House

In attendance: Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, John Quinney, Ethan Lisle, Deirdre Holmes, David Pill, Suzy Hodgson

The EC approved 10/3/18 and 12/5/18 minutes.

Rebecca facilitated a review of EC's goals from 2018 by looking back and reflecting on 2018 activities in order to plan for 2019.

Suzy spoke to some of the reasons why the **EC budget** is currently underspent. As of October 2018, John Quinney has been EC treasurer. The EC discussed ways to align strategic planning with the Town Budget's fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 by considering doing longer term planning in the fall when budgets for the following year are proposed.

One of the large budget items is **weatherization of town-owned buildings** and \$1700 remains in this year's budget. David and John will take a lead on prioritizing the town-owned buildings including the fire station and library for the remainder of this fiscal year. The budget includes funds for an audit and some funds for architectural fees. Other key areas discussed were transport and town hall light upgrades to LEDs as requested by the SB and Dean.

EC discussed **education and awareness-raising efforts** to celebrate going electric, such as organizing a **non-fossil fuel festival/parade** with other town groups. Having more events at the library, eg monthly speakers, and writing more news pieces for the Charlotte News was also suggested. News items could be short lightbulb moments and photos with captions. Topics for presentations include energy efficiency **stretch codes** for new building (Efficiency VT - Matt Sargent, Charlotte resident, is interested in presenting this information) and a **legislative update** (Mike Yantachka could speak about energy legislative matter and what's happening at the State House).

The EC needs to be prepared to support the process of passing the revised Town Plan. Matt will monitor best ways to continue to work with CCRPC after passage.

The **Town's affordable housing fund** is currently underspent. Nancy Wood asked the EC to consider using the funds for a weatherization program, which would require changes in the fund's bylaws. The process for making such changes was unclear. The EC will get more information.

Public transit is a large part of reducing GHGs and meeting state and town goals. The bus stop at Citgo's is now gone, which does not bode well for increasing public transport and bus ridership to/from Charlotte.

Meeting Adjourned 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzy Hodgson