

## Charlotte Energy Committee Meeting Minutes - Approved

February 7, 2017

7:00-8:45 PM

Town Hall

Attending: Members Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, Suzy Hodgson, Catherine Hughes, Bill Kallock, Meghan Mahoney, David Pill; Gerald Bouchard (Planning Commission liaison); Guests Meg Berlin (Conservation Commission), Mariana DuBrul (Energy Independent Vermont), John Quinney (interest in EC).

1. Minutes from January 3, 2017 are approved.

2. Community Energy Dashboard—the goal of the new online tool is to track all Vermont towns' progress in getting to 90% by 2050 and motivate them to stay on track. Rebecca and Matt met with a representative of the Dashboard last week to get a tutorial and understand it better. Dashboard folks are choosing a select group of towns to work with and test out the site and make improvements with feedback.

- There are different methods on the website of conveying information, i.e., maps, charts, analysis, narrative stories.
- Who's going to want to make a contribution to the site, however? Do we need to motivate people with a raffle, for instance?
- If we were ready we could publicize the website at Town Meeting Day.
- Dashboard folks' thought is for EC members to start to populate the site with their personal stories as well as town activities, such as buttoning up municipal buildings. (Action: Rebecca to remind people to sign up and do this.)
- David feels this effort needs to be part of a larger education push about climate change otherwise it's just the usual suspects in town that will participate and the Dashboard will serve no practical end.
- We can invite the Dashboard people back to speak with just the EC or Rebecca floats idea to open it up to interested people in the community. We decide to make the session available to all Charlotters who want to come. (Action: Rebecca will get in touch with Rob Fish to arrange a date.)
- Meghan suggests the 8<sup>th</sup> graders at CCS, perhaps as part of the middle school's environmental initiative, would be good ambassadors for introducing the concept to the students and through them the parents; would need a handout.

3. CCRPC (Matt)

- CCRPC expects to provide the Town, probably through our Town Planner, maps and data related to the targets, baseline/future energy use. This information will likely be available at the end of April/early May. Additionally, specific strategies will likely be sourced from existing planning documents such as the Climate Action Guide.
- The Town will determine how to use this information for town planning.
- Gerald reports that the PC has decided to go for "substantial deference" language in the Town Plan (regarding Act 174.) Suzy will ask Daryl to confirm what the PC has decided. PC has a meeting on 2/23 at 6:30 devoted exclusively to the Town Plan. It would be good to have an EC rep there to be a firsthand observer.

4. Heat Pump event Feb 9 at Library. Bill is ready—spread the word!
5. Senior Center work—report back
  - Paul Sipple from NECCO reported via email on the work he did at the Senior Center with the EC budget of \$2100 we contributed for additional weatherization during the vestibule expansion. The work was done between early September and mid-November 2016. We are happy with his work and the improvements he made—excellent value for the money we spent. His report is as follows:
    - Connection of center building to dining room building. The overbuild of the center roof on to the dining roof was full of gaps and duct penetrations with air gaps around them. We removed the drywall above the dining room/center space door to access this area and from the center space attic we cut in an access. We removed some bunched-up vapor barrier along the joint of the over built roof and we sealed with spray foam the angle between the two roofs. We also sealed the gap between the duct penetrations and plywood. We also sealed the open stud cavities coming from below with rigid foam and spray sealer. We replaced and repainted the drywall
    - Cupola: We removed the ceiling sufficiently to inspect the area and discovered that the fan was a direct ducted connection to the outside. We removed the fan and ductwork and plugged up the two wall louvres with rigid insulation. We then insulated the ceiling joists with rigid foam and an air sealed plug is behind the existing grill. All the ceiling tiles were replaced. The light fixture was removed and the fan wiring properly terminated.
    - We installed a new door sweep on the existing front door which is still in use.
6. Mariana reported on the Energy Independent Vermont initiative on which she's volunteered with the guidance of VPIRG
  - The big idea of EIV is that a priority strategy to get to 90% renewables by 2050 is through a carbon tax.
  - She (and Matt, Suzy, Rebecca) have met with our representative Mike Yantachka, and she will be meeting with Tim Ashe soon.
  - A variety of bills on the subject have been introduced this year; not likely to come to a successful vote this year.
  - Many people are talking about how to fine tune the legislation so that it doesn't have a disproportionate impact on lower income folks.
  - Mariana will keep the EC posted on progress.
7. Collaboration—Rebecca suggested that our small town could benefit from more collaboration with other town committees and groups working on related issues. Specific suggestions for now include:
  - Transition Town Charlotte—the EC has been invited to co-sponsor the monthly Green Drinks, which is planned to launch in May and go through the summer. There is no budget required for co-sponsoring. All agree to co-sponsor the green drink initiative.
  - Holding an annual meeting with the Hinesburg EC and the folks in Shelburne who might one day comprise an EC (currently there is not one) to share ideas and see where we

might work together. All agree to the concept; Rebecca will keep the idea alive with Chuck Reiss of Hinesburg.

- Working more closely with the Conservation Commission and Trails Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Foster