

## Energy Committee Minutes

April 23, 2020

7 PM

Remote meeting, via Zoom

In Attendance: Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, Suzy Hodgson, Deirdre Holmes, Bill Kallock, Doug Paton, John Quinney; and Gerald Boucher, Planning Commission Liaison

- 1) Review and amend agenda
- 2) Approval of 3/4/20 minutes without changes
- 3) Presentation on Window Dressers proposal from Jamey Gerlaugh of Transition Town Charlotte, explaining the history of the initiative in Charlotte and request for financial support from the CEC.
  - a) The following resolution was approved unanimously: “The Charlotte Energy Committee will donate \$500 from its 2019-2020 budget to Transition Town Charlotte to support the lower-income subsidy efforts of the Window Dressers program for the 2020-2021 winter season, with an expectation that recipients of the support will be Charlotte residents, the Energy Committee will receive a report on the outcomes of the project, and Transition Town Charlotte will acknowledge the Energy Committee as supporters of the program when publicizing it.” Jamey will communicate with Rebecca about the exact way in which the check should be written out.
  - b) The discussion about publicizing the Window Dressers program through the Charlotte Food Shelf brought to mind for Bill the success of the CEC’s past program of supplying the Food Shelf with weatherization items and providing technical labor support for their use. Rebecca suggested that supplying the Food Shelf this early summer for next winter would be a good use of current year budget. Bill will look for a list of what we bought in the past and make recommendations on what would be helpful for this year. CEC and TTC will communicate about the realization of the plan insofar as it requires volunteer labor for next winter.
- 4) Matt discovered that the *Think Resilience* group course study created by the Post Carbon Institute is now available online for free. Matt will reach out to the library to see if they would like to co-sponsor an educational initiative to offer facilitation of the group study, members of which would join from the broader Charlotte community. We should be able to use the town’s Zoom account for this project.
- 5) The solar-pollinator educational demo field that the CEC has discussed in the past landed on the Ten Stones solar system as an available site because no other appropriate public site currently exists. Rebecca did research into process, costs, and the degree of interest on the part of Ten Stones in hosting the educational site. Concerns were raised about using private land for the demo project. (Ten Stones has since rescinded their interest.)
- 6) Town and school solar.

- a) Schools: As a result of research, Deirdre found that there is a cap on the amount of solar that is allowed within one school district, and our district has already surpassed the allowable amount. Mike Yantachka agrees that it's a bad situation, but in the current environment of shut-down redressing it is not a priority. There was general agreement that as long as the cap is in place there is nothing to pursue.
- b) Town: There are a variety of options for meeting the town's electricity usage. There may be interest in companies at the scale of Green Lantern, but word has gotten around about Green Lantern's experience with the town this last winter and there is some reluctance to get involved with Charlotte. Another opportunity may be a smaller-scale developer of, for example, the library roof, which would satisfy a portion of the town's usage. John will ask Leigh if he would be willing to have a zoom mtg with members of the committee to understand the various structures behind the various options for the town. In advance of the meeting Deirdre will develop a list of items that we want to be sure to discuss. We should be able to use the town's Zoom account for this meeting.
- 7) Doug, who has taken on the oversight of the EV charger, is concerned that Dean is stymied by questions he has received from the state regarding the charger and grant. Bill will assist Doug in working out any problems with Dean. Rebecca asked Bill and Doug to confirm that the town is still honoring its financial commitment to the project — some \$1800 — before we have committed our own entire budget.
- 8) Matt reported that he has reached out to CCRPC about rural transportation. As for almost everything in the state there has been a pause. Matt will keep us up to date.
- 9) Meeting calendar was confirmed for the first Wednesday of each month. The dates through the summer are: 5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5, 9/2.
- 10) Gratitude, fond memories, and highlights of the tenures of retiring members John Quinney and Bill Kallock were celebrated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm  
Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Foster