

Energy Committee Minutes

May 7, 2018

7 PM

Charlotte Town Hall

In attendance: Rebecca Foster, Deirdre Holmes, Megan Mahoney, Matt Burke, John Quinney, Suzy Hodgson, Ethan Lisle, Gerald Bouchard (PC liaison).

4/3/18 minutes were unanimously approved.

The Committee says goodbye to Megan and thanks her for her service over the past two years. Megan will write a piece about her perspective serving on the Committee with Rebecca's guidance.

Announcements: Matt contacted 350VT about the no-more-fossil-fuel-infrastructure town resolution campaign, its next steps statewide, and how Charlotte might participate. He is awaiting an update.

Event: Drive Electric Vermont event 5/23

Everyone will promote event via FPF, e-mail and social media, focusing on their liaison groups. John to contact Senior Center and Catholic Church. Megan to circulate info at CVU. Bill to reach out to his Shelburne contact and the Rec committee. Suzy to check about refreshments with Margaret. An article for publication about the event will be written by the public ed working group.

The EC welcomes Ethan, the EC's new student member from CVU, and he's introduced to members he didn't meet in April.

Working group reports

Act 174

Matt and Deirdre met April 16 with PC members and Emily Nosse-Leirer from CCRPC. CCRPC and Emily who has done most of the drafting need to finish this energy portion by July 15. The section includes both Charlotte Today and Tomorrow and there's a need to make sure there's consistency throughout the plan. Questions remain as to how to coordinate the plan with how it's implemented in land-use regs. This is an important next step. The following four issues were brought up by CCRPC for EC to address:

- * Energy strategy and implementation table – is it complete? Is it worded correctly? This needs careful review by EC. Deirdre will distribute this section to the Committee for feedback.

- * Role of Energy Dashboard – EC discussed its purposes and practicalities, how user friendly it is and how to motivate Charlotters to use it. Ethan, as new student member, will create an account and explore it. At future EC meeting, more time will be devoted to using this dashboard. For town plan, it is anticipated that the EC and Town will use the dashboard for communication and possibly tracking but it's a work in progress. The EC decided that each Committee member needs to spend some individual time exploring the website before having a group discussion.

- * Will the Town commit in the town Plan to stretch codes beyond the standard energy codes?

The Committee would like to do this but need to define what this means in land-use regs.

* Screening by-laws. The EC would like to consider and get more detail on examples and methodology

Deirdre to circulate more details for EC to add comment.

EC discussed purpose of Act 174 and to what extent towns are in the best position for reaching state goals of 90% by 2050 given the regional nature of energy issues and impacts.

Public education

Suzy and John to propose seasonal flow for articles and timely topics (Two articles already on deck: EV event, Megan's experience as a student volunteer.)

Plan to have party with other committee(s) eg joint party with Trails to celebrate Town Link Trail with refreshments at both ends.

Liaison reports, openings

Several openings were filled including:

John - liaison for Lewis Creek Association and Senior Center.

Suzy - liaison for Charlotte Land Trust.

Suzy to make contact with N. Ferrisburgh committee

Rebecca to check about putting the Hinesburg EC workshop series, "The Path to Greater Home Comfort and Energy Savings," which were videotaped, on our Committee website.

Committee vacancy

Committee members are reaching out to a couple of Charlotters, who may be interested. Rebecca expressed hope that any new member will have skills that no present member has, to maximize diversity.

Next meeting: June 12 (2nd Tuesday in month) and July 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzy Hodgson