

Charlotte Energy Committee
- Minutes -

July 1, 2020, 7 PM

Remote meeting, via Zoom

In Attendance: Matt Burke, Rebecca Foster, Suzy Hodgson, Deirdre Holmes, Doug Paton; Gerald Boucher, Planning Commission Liaison; and Jacqui DeMent, Charlotte Resident.

- 1) Review agenda
- 2) Approval of 6/3/20 minutes without changes
- 3) CCRPC preferred sites analysis—Melanie Needle is answering some of our questions about the map and has drafted a template for a letter that can be sent to landowners. One question is why the title says this is a map for preferred siting of *net-metering* projects rather than all/any solar projects. Once the maps are completed we will discuss next steps for communicating this information.
- 4) Food shelf weatherization project—everything is ordered and on its way to Suzy's for storage.
 - a) Possible fall internship for this project. Deirdre filled out a request form for an Oberlin student, would likely be a junior, remotely, for 6-8 weeks. Given the nature of the project, it may be preferable to have an on-the-ground intern instead of or in addition to a remote intern; many young people's plans have been upended for the fall so we should reach out to see if we can find someone interested. Rebecca, Deirdre, Suzy, and Doug will meet in July before the next CEC meeting to formulate a detailed description of the internship and discuss how to broadcast it.
- 5) Updates
 - a) Think Resilience course. The 7-week Post Carbon Institute course is at the mid-point and has stabilized at a core group of 15 people, many of whom are Transition Town Charlotte members. It's been an excellent (as ever) partnership with the library. Matt is thinking about what ideas from this course could be brought back to this committee to enrich its work.
 - b) Community energy engagement at the Library. We got everything ordered by deadline; the thermal camera is still en route and needs to arrive before the end of August to qualify us for FY20 budget. There were a few resources we did not have sufficient budget to purchase; we can think about allocating future budget to this project so that the resources can stay up to date and grow. Margaret and Susanna are excited to get the Conservation Corner underway.
- 6) Library solar. Deidre took the part of the RFP that the town put out in the fall for PV on the library roof and updated it as she was able. We reviewed the new draft RFP line by line as a group and found a few questions for Deirdre to look into. When it is ready she will send the new draft to the CEC for review; when it is final we will send it to Dean for the select board's consideration, possibly at their 7/13/20 meeting. It will be valuable to find out which vendors, if any, are interested in a project of this size.
- 7) Vacancies—the CEC has two vacancies. Jacqui, who works on planning at VTrans says

that she is interested in joining and will contact Dean about a select board interview.

- 8) The new town planner is Larry Lewack, who as a planner in Bolton worked on the energy plan and with the CCRPC; he previously worked for VEEP and is well networked. We discussed again the benefit of a shared energy coordinator with surrounding towns, the organizing principle of which could be the school district towns. If we wanted to pursue that, Larry could be potentially helpful.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Foster