

Town of Essex
Energy Committee
Minutes

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

7:28 PM – Via Zoom and Live (81 Main Street)

Present: Will Dodge (chair), David Skopin, Irene Wrenner, Michael Fink; Tom Yandow, Dottie Bergendahl.

Remote: Natalee Braun, Phil March

Absent:.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE.

An update was provided regarding obtaining transcripts in order to prepare minutes of the previous meetings for 2Q / 3Q 2021.

A discussion ensued regarding problems with room being reserved at 81 Main Street but no one to let in the committee members. Many thanks to Tom Yandow for coming down to let everyone in. Also, the MS Teams agenda sent by the municipality did not have a host, so Ann Yanda and others could not join.

II. SUBSTANTIVE.

A. Out and About Essex: The Committee members discussed the upcoming Button Up table planned for Essex Out and About, in front of the Essex Double E Events Center, near Ace Hardware, October 2 and 3. It was anticipated that we would be visited by people looking for incentives to weatherize, people who have already mostly weatherized; and those who feel strapped by heating costs at a loss of where to begin.

Action Items: Finalize sign up sheet; obtain talking points from Ann Janda (CCRPC); check-in with Ace Hardware to prep them (Will); bring EC banner, and potentially a laptop; firm up arrangements for table with Tammy Getchell.

B. Reachout from Andy Watts. The Committee discussed a request from Andy Watts to update the Selectboard on its

activities and to make specific asks / requests. Key points in the discussion included (i) staff support; and (ii) Energy Coordinator / Consultant position, though the committee agreed that the position required additional definition and examples.

Action Items: Preparation of draft letter with priorities to send to the Selectboard. Phil to look into additional information regarding an energy consultant position, incl. Hartford, South Burlington.

C. Joint Meeting with Conservation and Trails Committee (CTC). The Committee discussed an upcoming Joint Meeting with CTC as a means of working with staff and also understanding what CTC is doing for GHG reductions / conservation.

Action Item: Finalize time for meeting with the Trails Committee.

D. VECAN / GWSA Activities. A brief report was provided as to VECAN proprieties in its work on the Global Warming Solutions Act, with the sense that a lot of the spending priorities are focused on climate resiliency, not necessarily energy items.

Action Item: No specific item at this time.

Next Meeting: October 13, 2021 at 6:30pm (with CTC). [Later moved to October 20]

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