

Town of Essex
Energy Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
7:00 PM – 81 Main Street, Essex Jct

Present: Will Dodge, Phil March, Dottie Bergandahl, Michael Fink, Natalee Braun, David Skopin. Absent: Irene Wrenner, Tom Yandow

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Approval of meeting minutes from April 27, 2022: passed unanimously.
2. Vacancy: Phil March announced that he will be stepping off the committee on June 1. Will will report the vacancy to Deanna Stoneback. The Committee is very grateful to Phil for all his many contributions since joining.

SUBSTANTIVE

1. Lowe's Event for June 18th

The primary purpose of the meeting was to plan a weatherization event at Lowe's for 7:30am to 1:00pm on Saturday, June 18th, which included discussions of logistics, signage, social media and media advertising, materials and information to provide to passersby (including QR codes), donut holes, and the possibility of having a contractor attend at least one shift to discuss. It will be important for committee members to refamiliarize themselves with the websites between now and the event. The Committee planned to meet in full on June 15th to plan final details; in the meantime, Working Groups would develop materials and focus on logistics for the event. Some discussion ensued regarding a raffle for a \$100 Lowe's gift certificate if participants would provide their contact information for future weatherization efforts. It was determined that double tickets would need to be obtained to keep track. Natalee later noted the importance

of 1x1 contact with those who come to the table, and stressed the importance of an invitation.

2. CCRPC Transportation / Walk & Bike Survey: Natalee discussed the website where information can be added regarding bicycle and walking information, and it was noted that Brian Davis (the organizer of the website at CCRPC) could be emailed directly.

3. Discussion with Selectboard on "Re-Upping": Will discussed his interview with the Selectboard, with one of the main action items being a request to determine Essex's total GHG output as a means of trying to track future reductions / increases. Mike provided some ideas as to how such data might be aggregated from various sources, but with a particularly difficult issue being the potential methane leakage from natural gas as factoring into the total. The Committee explored the difficulties in assembling the data, but agreed this should be a worthwhile effort to undertake, with the goal of completing before winter.

4. Rotary Club Letter The Committee discussed the status of a multi-party letter being developed by the Rotary Club to encourage exploration of town and EWSD resources for solar.

5. Recap from Municipal Event at EE. The Committee discussed the event at the EE to show the work of the committee, with the main benefit being the opportunity to speak with other volunteers of other committees within Essex. The Committee pledged to send recommendations back to the organizers for next year.

6. Planning Commission X-Disciplinary WGs. The Committee briefly discussed the status of working groups being formed by

the Planning Commission to address a variety of issues important to the Energy Committee, and the status of initial meetings.

7. Legislative Wrap-Up. Natalee noted the passage of the Environmental Justice Act, and the Committee discussed the likelihood that H.740 (budget bill) would also be passed with \$8.3 billion, of which \$80 million will be for weatherization. There was also discussion of the Clean Heat Standard legislative defeat. Further discussion was had regarding the housing legislation, and the link between new housing growth and energy initiatives.

8. Other Business. There was a brief discussion regarding video capabilities for recording EEC meetings.

Motion to adjourn accepted.

Next Meeting: Wed., June 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM