

Town of Essex
Energy Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
7:00 PM – 81 Main Street, Essex Jct

Present: Will Dodge, Dottie Bergandahl, Michael Fink, Natalee Braun, David Skopin, Tom Yandow. Absent: Irene Wrenner. Special guest (via Zoom): Greg Hurne; Charlie (STEM internship / 350VT)

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Charlie made a quick introduction to the work he is completing with 350VT under Natalee's mentorship.
2. Minutes of 10/19: Approved by unanimous vote following changes.
3. Vacancy: discussed possibility of two open positions with Irene's pending retirement, and prospects of having Tom serve as a permanent member.
4. Town vs. City Committees: discussed potentially keeping a single committee for Essex / Essex Junction, perhaps pursuant to an MOU.
5. Use of Video: some progress made in getting ready for a tutorial to members on use of the Town tech.

SUBSTANTIVE

1. GHG Mapping Effort. Mike led a robust discussion regarding all of the various inputs / variables from multiple sectors of the economy being taken into account in coming up with a GHG estimate for the Town (with help from Greg Hurne). Idea is to come up with a "ballpark" that could then help provide guidance for reduction priorities. **ACTION ITEMS:** Attempt contact with GBIC to address degree to which industrial operations in Essex is producing GHG.

2. Weatherization Event Efforts: Dottie discussed efforts made to date with the general manager at Costco for a weatherization event, and the lack of progress with respect to the Champlain Valley Expo for a similar event. **ACTION ITEMS:** Keep attempting to make contact with CVE; prepare materials to show to Costco.

3. Renewable Energy Vermont Conference: The Committee discussed some of the major takeaways from the REV conference in South Burlington, including the difficulty of dealing with expected life of oil furnaces versus gas versus electric. Will explained the highlights of his visit to Beta as part of the conference, and the promise of electrical aviation as well as the amazing features of the airport-based facility. A discussion also ensued regarding the problems with trying to spur more renewable development based on a presentation from the Department of Public Service.

4. Town Plan Subcommittee Update. Will explained how the process will work to solicit input in Essex for working on the new, climate-change-focused 2024 Town Plan. A discussion also ensued regarding the absence of progress with the other Planning Commission subcommittees.

4. Revolving Loan Fund Information. There was a very brief update regarding efforts to work with Sarah Macy. **ACTION ITEM:** Follow-up.

5. Follow-Ups and Updates. (i) MRF for CSWD was approved by the voters.

Motion to adjourn accepted.

For full access to the meeting, please see:
<https://fathom.video/share/i/C-hAPykyNjc25c9t-NBPBsiYfghMviL>

Next Meeting: Wed., December 14, 2022 at
7:00 PM

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