

SPECIAL BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Remote Participation via ZOOM Platform

Committee members present: Elaine Wang, Chair; Conor Teal, Vice-Chair; Phil Cecchini, Romni Palmer

Committee members absent: None

Visitors: Brad Long, Efficiency Vermont; Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies, LLC

1. **Call to Order:** 5:33 p.m. on the video conference platform ZOOM.
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** The agenda would be adjusted to accommodate for the addition of the CVRPC energy data memo, the annual report draft review and for time.
3. **Visitors and Communications** (*for something not on the agenda*): None.
4. **New Business**

- a. **GMT's Micro Transit Program.** Jamie Smith, Director of Marketing and Planning with Green Mountain Transit gave a presentation about *MyRide*, a pilot project in Montpelier. It is a flexible route, flexible scheduled application similar to Uber Lift, and is used for public transportation. Partners include VTrans, Sustainable Montpelier Coalition, Montpelier Housing Authority, the City of Montpelier, the Montpelier School District, Vermont Council for Independent Living, and the Montpelier Senior Center – there are about 25 or so members. The project rolled out officially on January 4, 2021, but had an earlier soft opening for use during the covid environment earlier in the year. Montpelier is the first pilot project in the state, and metrics gathered over the next two years will help with other such pilots, of which Barre City might benefit from.

The 3 routes this replaces are the Capitol Shuttle, the Montpelier Circulator and the Hospital Hill run. The Shuttle and the Circulator were underperforming, and the Hospital Run was about average, so that is why these routes were chosen. Due to Covid, there are 9 seats available only at any given time on any of the 3 buses. There has been little complaint since roll out, no missed rides and generally users are happy. When booking a trip, it does not ask for the trip purpose. Its intent is to stay within the 7.5-mile radius around Montpelier for the next two years, and any user from the City still needs to figure out when to find a connection from our GMT bus schedules currently.

Overall, the energy committee should continue to keep awareness of the project, ask to be a member or attend a future stakeholder meeting, and to stay informed. The Chair asked if Ms. Smith would be available in April to give us an update, so that agenda item is now set.

5. Old Business

- a. **Update from Efficiency Vermont.** B. Long stated he and C. Teal completed the interview

49 with the Bike Shop owner Darren Ohls. They are working on reducing it from 17 minutes
50 to 3 minutes, and then sharing it out of the Microsoft Teams platform.

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52 The landlord roundtable idea is about engaging both the landlord and the tenant, as a series
53 for energy efficiency. The goal is to establish a relationship with these parties. Landlords
54 are a part of our business community and we should be treating them as an asset to our
55 business community. We need to figure out what this means, what are the goals, what is
56 the city's vision and what is the engagement – what is our goal statement with this
57 initiative?

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59 J. Shatney mentioned the Housing Forum that was hosted by Council last year, and perhaps
60 we could piggyback onto that and collaborate. She also let them know about the Minimum
61 Housing ordinance revision that may force landlords to provide heat for their tenants. It
62 was mentioned to ask the Mayor to attend our January meeting. We need to be mindful of
63 our next steps.

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65 b. **Energy Committee FY19 annual report for the manager's office:** due to a mix up, the
66 version that should have been reviewed wasn't sent out. With the due date of Jan. 20th
67 looming, it was decided that all committee members review, send back to the Chair/Vice
68 Chair any comments, so that it will be forwarded appropriately to the City.

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70 c. **Approval of the October 26th and November 23rd, 2020 meeting minutes:** The Chair
71 asked if there were any edits or comments on either, and R. Palmer noted that on line 62
72 of the November minutes her name should be changed to P. Cecchini's. With that revision,
73 R. Palmer made a motion to approve both sets, and was seconded by P. Cecchini, *motion*
74 *carried with E. Wang abstaining.*

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76 d. **Energy Plan community engagement survey results.** D. Sachs went through the draft
77 of the survey results to date. She asked for more time to complete, and members should
78 submit further comments to her in the next 3 weeks. After the January regular meeting,
79 perhaps a Saturday work session may be in order to finalize.
80 [https://docs.google.com/document/d/14APoAnXSeNm7FhAIZBqnx4KtD_mHZI59f_N](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14APoAnXSeNm7FhAIZBqnx4KtD_mHZI59f_NkrUCsao/edit?usp=sharing)
81 [krUCsao/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14APoAnXSeNm7FhAIZBqnx4KtD_mHZI59f_NkrUCsao/edit?usp=sharing)

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83 e. **Energy Stories:** tabled to next regularly scheduled meeting on January 25, 2021.

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85 f. **Home energy tour discussion:** tabled to next regularly scheduled meeting on January 25,
86 2021.

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88 6. **Roundtable:** P. Cecchini said he attended the CVRPC district heat meeting.

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90 7. **Adjourn.** Motion made by P. Cecchini and seconded by R. Palmer to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

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92 There is an audio recording available, and the meeting was recorded by the ZOOM video conference
93 platform.

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Respectfully submitted

Janet E. Shatney, Planning Director