

REGULAR BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Present: Elaine Wang, Chair; Conor Teal, Vice-Chair; Phil Cecchini

Staff: Janet Shatney, Planning Director

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

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting was called to order in-person and via video platform by Vice-Chair Teal at 5:31 pm.

2. Adjustments to the Agenda: Adjustments were made to accommodate those present.

3. Visitors and Communications (*for something not on the agenda*): None.

4. Old Business

A. Approve meeting minutes of May 24 and July 26, 2021

Motion by Cecchini and seconded by Wang to approve both sets of minutes, motion carried.

B. Update on Transportation

Wang noted she was in contact with Jamie Smith at Green Mountain Transit, and VTrans is requiring them to put out a survey process to all communities, cannot just choose us, so we may or may not be chosen to be the next pilot program.

Wang asked about the charge given by the City Council, that the landlord focus group did not feel energy efficiency was a big of a problem as the Council seems to be making it. She proposed to focus first on efficient use of energy, then talk about predictability, then find the regulatory and non-regulatory incentives last. Sachs felt this charge is beyond the scope of a 3-member volunteer group, and outside assistance is necessary to give the City Council a fair, comprehensive answer.

Amanda Carlson was present to speak to what is happening at Capstone for transportation. She was hoping to get some feedback from the committee. She outlined how the transportation initiative came about (by Cecchini), and she was brought on to help build it up. A transportation needs assessment was completed by RSG, and just received the final report that she shared. 700 respondents, and 450 were the focus of the information. 35% of the respondents have unmet transportation needs, and 15% don't have a vehicle at all (no driver's license). 18% of respondents said they have a disability. 1:4 Vermonters are disabled. She shared some of the interactive maps of which one was especially autos per household.

48 **C. Landlord Initiative and Council Charge**
49 Long said meeting on August 5th was very productive, got great feedback. What he
50 heard from landlords is if including heat is part of the rent, then its simple math and
51 rents will go up; a central heating system would be installed and then efficiency is
52 lost. The opportunity he identified from the conversation is two-fold: doing any full
53 scale weatherization to a building would mean that the building needs to be empty to
54 get it done; and a list could be provided by the City of all the empty and vacant
55 buildings so that could be taken advantage of.

56
57 He suggested having a skeleton outline of the campaign that has precipitated from
58 the landlord focus group written up so that the next meeting regarding it could be
59 more efficient. Thanks were given to Sachs for this idea and seeing it come to
60 fruition. And, based on the letters sent to all landlords and property managers, he has
61 at least 12 interested owners doing various things like posing questions, scheduling
62 walkthroughs and networking with him.

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64 **D. Update on energy engagement appendix**
65 Sachs stated that she did not have the time to work on it, and will work on it for the
66 next meeting. The committee members stated they did not get to the homework set
67 out for them by the last meeting either, but will try for the next meeting as well.

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69 **E. Community Visit**
70 Wang reminded everyone to try and attend something at the community visit on
71 Wednesday, August 25. Shatney pointed out the revised flyer also shows that each
72 and every forum now has a Zoom link to you can participate remotely if so chosen.

73
74 **5. New Business:**
75 Sachs spoke to a grant application her business is completing for the “Walk to Shop”
76 campaign. There are shopping trolleys that are going to be purchased and distributed, and
77 she was inquiring if the committee would be interested in assisting providing the trolley
78 opportunity in Barre City. A pop-up at the Farmer’s Market was suggested, everyone was
79 on board.

80
81 **6. Roundtable:**
82 Teal said he had a conversation with someone from Revitalizing Waterbury, where they
83 completed business walk-throughs with EVT and the way they did it. The resources were
84 shared with Teal and said we could use them if we wanted to, and would like to see
85 something done.

86
87 **7. Adjourn:**
88 Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm by Wang, seconded by Teal, motion carried.

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90 The meeting was recorded by the ZOOM video conference platform.

91
92 Respectfully submitted,
93 Janet E. Shatney, Planning Director