

BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP
October 25, 2021 at 5:30 pm

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

Staff: Janet Shatney, Planning Director

1. Call to Order: Call to order at 5:33 pm by Chair Wang

2. Adjustments to the Agenda: None

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

4. Old Business

A. Approval of minutes of the August 23, 2021 minutes: motion made by Teal and seconded by Cecchini to approve the minutes as presented, **motion carried.**

B. Update for Efficiency Vermont (Brad Long): Executed on a regional grant to the regional development corporations to do some “catch-up”; as an organization, in the space of trying to close out the on-going projects. Barre City specifically, the landlord outreach has slowed down, had 3 referrals, and good engagement. Barre City was paid out and the grant was closed for our heat pumps.

Next Steps: Will get committee some text; and lay out a plan for “Walk and Talk” with a date (suggested first two weeks in December, Teal to set up)

C. Update on energy engagement plan

i. magic square (Elaine): Wang has not been able to make any progress, will try for next month’s meeting.

ii. Appendix prioritizations (Deb Sachs): Has version 4 going, PowerPoint presentation and some work. Said that working on these statistics is hard, and having those statistics be understandable and relatable to something like a tanker of oil and how many solar panels on roofs we need, has taken time. Has shared the working-draft roadmap. She asked if she could be sharing what she has been working on with folks within this industry, and the committee agreed that it was “imperative” to get this out there so everyone is talking together on it.

D. Landlord initiative and Council charge next steps: Talk of the landlord group occurred, Sachs will forward the contact for the landlord committee chair. Energy savings and resources were shared. With Long with us only 2 short months left, there was a commitment to have a walk-around downtown, that Teal will facilitate with Long and BADC, Barre Partnership. Talk of presenting at the Rotary or others occurred, as well as the focus group leanings.

48 Cecchini said that the outreach with the 3EThermal folks at Capstone have also started to
49 slow down. Funding for energy resources for multi-families, inefficient wood and pellet
50 stoves, etc., not sure of the scope, but that there is some out there.

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52 The most valuable asset is a reliable tenant, turn-over is high. Weatherized buildings tend
53 to retain their tenants longer as well, as energy is appreciated. A weatherized building can
54 “coast” longer, retain its heat longer as the building is healthier, less rodent infested.
55 Shatney provided contact information for the C.V. Landlord Association chair Larry
56 Lozier.

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58 Wang asked how to identify properties that are vacant and/or abandoned, or potential to
59 be vacant.

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61 *Next steps: Wong will to reach out to and pitch to the Landlord Association.*

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63 E. **Update on member outreach to survey participants:** Wang has not had a chance to
64 call anyone on the list yet, nor have Teal nor Cecchini.

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66 **5. New Business**

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68 A. **Paths, Routes and Trails Committee 10/27/21 meeting participation:** Meeting this
69 Wednesday, if anyone has time, just to participate. Agenda was included in the packet.

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71 B. **Consider Button-Up Participation:** motion to participate was made by Cecchini and
72 seconded by Teal, **motion carried.** Teal will do what he can to pass information out.

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74 **Round Table:** None.

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76 **Motion to Adjourn:** at 7:24 by Cecchini and seconded by Teal, **motion carried.**

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

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80 Respectfully submitted,

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83 Janet E. Shatney, Planning Director