

**SPECIAL BARRE CITY ENERGY HYBRID COMMITTEE MEETING  
December 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

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

**Staff:** Janet Shatney, Planning Director

**Call to Order:** Call to order at 6:39 pm by Chair Wang

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** Adjustments were made to accommodate Old Business item letter C due to a late start.

**Visitors:** Deputy Fire Chief Joseph A. Aldsworth

**Old Business**

**A. Approval of minutes of the Regular October 25, 2021 minutes:** motion made by Cecchini and seconded by Teal to approve the minutes as presented, motion carried.

**C. Code Enforcement Discussion (Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Aldsworth):** Wang gave the summary background of the Committee's charge by the Council to come up with regulations regarding energy standards. Aldsworth gave a background of what Code Enforcement is, who are the players, that it is a section within the Fire Department, how inspectors get education, and the levels of certification in NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). Aldsworth has a background in construction working for Summit Construction as a project manager with work done to the State House among others. He stressed that the Code Enforcement office tries to obtain compliance over being punitive. He also cited the path by which applications are received through to permitting. Aldsworth also shared information regarding the Municipal Energy Guide, that several municipalities have it posted on their websites, and suggested we could as well.

Teal asked if information was left with the tenant and/or landlord after an inspection, Aldsworth replied that not at that very moment, but when the inspection report gets sent to the landlord, there are lots of opportunities to add information with that report.

Wang asked if Aldsworth thought we should have above-code (or also called stretch code) and start enforcing that. Aldsworth responded that it would depend on what degree of enforcement we would be looking for, and what training would be needed to be able to complete the inspecting. We would be willing to entertain anything that would promote growth in the city and the staff. It was agreed to begin with education first, rather than start with enforcement. There are certainly many ways to assist with education, via pamphlets with water bills, tax bills, social media. And start with a smaller focus group, of which some landlords were cited.

Vacant buildings were also talked about, and if there were any opportunities with weatherization. It was noted that with rehabbing a vacant building, that the energy retrofits occur prior to being occupied.

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**B. Upgrade from Efficiency Vermont (Brad Long):** Mr. Long was not present for the meeting; therefore an update will be obtained at the next scheduled meeting.

**D. Landlord Initiative Discussion:** some of the conversation in item C was discussed, see above.

**E. Transportation Update:**

- **MyRide (Wang):** Wang noted that the MyRide contact had not gotten back to her as yet, but am still in hopes that they are continuing with entertaining Barre City as their next pilot location.
- **Capstone (Cecchini):** Capstone has just installed a new EV charging station in their parking lot, will be available to the public as well as employees. He also spoke of ongoing MileageSmart, and weatherization efforts.
- Teal gave a quick update that he and Long still need to complete the walk-arounds, and will reach out to Long, and Tracie Lewis of the Barre Partnership.

**New Business:** Discussion regarding the next regularly scheduled meeting took place, and it was decided to cancel the December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular meeting due to the holiday season.

**Round Table:** None.

**Motion to Adjourn:** at 8:14 by Cecchini and seconded by Teal, motion carried.

The meeting was recorded by the ZOOM video conference platform.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Shatney, Planning Director