

To be approved at the Feb. 28, 2022 meeting

1 **REGULAR BARRE CITY ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

2 **Hybrid meeting on January 24, 2022 beginning at 5:30 pm**

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

4 **Staff:** Janet Shatney, Planning Director

5 **1. Call to Order** by Vice Chair Teal at 5:35 pm.

6 **2. Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.

7 *Chair Wang joined at 5:36, and asked Vice Chair continue chairing the meeting.*

8 **3. Visitors and Communications**

9 Deb Sachs, EcoStrategies, LLC; Brad Long, Efficiency Vermont, Cody Morrison, Executive
10 Director of the Barre Area Development Corp. (BADC)

11 Morrison introduced himself and spoke to the role that BADC performs, and if any assistance
12 was needed, he would where he could. He said historically, economic development
13 organizations do not get involved in residential, but is trying to break this barrier down.

14 Teal said that assistance could be in the form of helping the committee with the typical landlord
15 outreach, and continue and try to bring in a lot of different sectors together and bring in
16 reductions. Drafting a Roadmap of the city for information and guidance on energy efficiency
17 and what we want to offer and see for the folks of City of Barre.

18 Sachs noted the City goal of 40% fuel reduction by 2040. Heavy, concerted effort to make
19 those reductions happen. Need to help people understand the magnitude of the change, and
20 need to get there together, get the word out

21 Wang felt the main challenge is folks paying attention, and the committee doesn't have enough
22 bodies to get the work done, that 3 volunteers do not have the time to get the word out.
23 Landlord letter generated approx. 12-14 phone calls to Long regarding the letter we sent out
24 last year.

25 Sachs asked if Morrison has everything he needs to understand all the incentives, bank
26 offerings, etc. that you can offer people. Morrison stated he's received some information Teal,
27 but any other to be used at his disposal is always welcome. Morrison asked what the focus
28 might be of a meeting in February, suggesting energy efficiency, but certainly would support
29 anything else that the committee wanted to focus on. Wang was interested in hearing what the
30 "hook", or incentive would be to get attendance at a meeting, and thought a new incentive
31 might need to be thought of. Ideas needed on putting together another landlord forum and
32 asking for a small donation; Sachs suggested asking for information on how they are doing, if
33 shelves are stocked, and product is available

34 **4. Old Business**

35 **A. Dec. 8, 2021 Minutes approval**

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36 *Cecchini motioned to approve, seconded by Wang, no discussion, approved unanimously.*

37 **B. Schedule**

38 Sachs asked if members are available for a special work session Feb 19 or 20. Saturday is
39 better, to go over the Roadmap priorities for CO2 savings and the impacts, to have a suite
40 of options that members can review, work on and reach goals by 2040. Want to meet at
41 Feb 19th at 9 am. Members agree that this is good day and time.

- 42 ➤ *Shatney will schedule a special meeting, fully remote due to the revised Public*
43 *Meeting Laws, for Saturday, February 19th, 2022 at 9 am.*
44 ➤ *Wang asked Shatney the status of our funds, and they are:*
45 • *\$1,000 annual committee stipend for FY22 unspent to date; unused funds will*
46 *roll over next year into FY23;*
47 • *If FY23 budget is approved, annual committee stipend will only be \$500*
48 *annually.*
49 • *Funds from previous annual stipend and Novus energy funds given to*
50 *committee total \$5,418. Once spent, will be gone. This is the fund we are*
51 *using for Sach's consultant fees.*

52 **C. Final targeted Community Report from Efficiency Vermont**

53 Long said no tremendous update, but as he has wrapped it up, encouraged the committee
54 to continue to stay engaged. Anything that the City thinks that EVT can do, feel free to
55 reach out, and stay connected, let's get things done. If there are other workshops and
56 forums, he would love to attend. Wang asked if he was required to generate a report at the
57 end of a targeted campaign, and we were mentioned in last year's report, as well as this
58 year's. he will ensure that Wang gets a copy of each.

59 Wang asked about the walk-thru's, and Teal said that people are having trouble with their
60 energy use, not connecting with landlord or building owner, so having trouble getting
61 projects under motion. A much more common theme than he and Long anticipated. Should
62 keep reaching out to owners and landlords. Wang asked if any outreach follow up that
63 occurred, and he felt there was a barrier between the landlords and the tenants. Some were
64 ok, some were interested, and some were incredibly happy that they had showed up to ask
65 the questions. One of the jewels pulled from this was Teal being there and asking if
66 anything is needed, and the recognition of the committee was incredible. Wang asked how
67 we could pitch this landlord forum based on what they heard, and Long said that knowing
68 the multi-use building owners are a target, they qualify for many of the incentives that are
69 out there. 19 home energy visits occurred from the push.

70 *Long said his farewells, and left the meeting.*

71 **D. Outreach**

72 No one has done their outreach from the survey participants, members need to remind
73 themselves so that they can report back. Will be on a future agenda item. Sachs found

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74 some good fact sheets to use for potential outreach. Good notes for the members to get
75 back to the respondents about. <https://css.umich.edu/factsheets/carbon-footprint-factsheet>
76 or Mileage Smart or Replace your Ride. For municipalities, could partake in the pending
77 legislation. If this summer, talk to Amanda at Capstone, and put in an order. Drive electric
78 says don't buy fast, but only level 2.

79 **E. MyRide**

80 Wang and Sachs said they would forward something for the minutes, but will be expanded
81 on at the next meeting.

82 **F. Housing Task Force Update**

83 Wang chairing workforce subcommittee, Shatney is on the zoning subcommittee. Sachs
84 noted 60% of missed appointments at Fletcher Allen are due to transportation. David
85 Sichel, Chair of the Planning Commission and BADC Board Chair is doing a great job.
86 Most committees are making a little progress.

87 **5. New Business**

88 None.

89 **6. Roundtable:**

90 Wang asked Shatney to check that Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron could be present at the next
91 meeting to give a quarterly update. Shatney asked Wang to communicate with Sachs about a
92 final invoice for her consultancy.

93 **7. Adjourn:**

94 **Wang motioned to adjourn at 7:47 pm, Cecchini seconded. Unanimous approval.**