

# Northfield Energy Committee

## Minutes of July 20, 2021

**Present:** Sarah Wolfe, Bob Keeley, and Patrick Meehan, Gail Hall

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 by Chair Sarah Wolfe

**Public Participation:** None

**June 15, 2021 Minutes:** Motion to approve (Bob), Seconded (Pat). Unanimously Approved.

### **Kiosk Update:**

- Rain Garden area was excavated by Town on July 14.
- After coordinating with Patrick Demasi, Tom Trombly filled in the garden area with gravel and topsoil, also on July 14.
- FPF request for hostas from community members received great response, with at least 12 folks volunteering to supply the project with 2-3 hostas each.
- Community members will bring their hosta contributions to the kiosk site on August 11 from 10:00-12:00PM. At that time Master Gardner representatives will help landscape and plant the hostas that are donated that day. Extra hostas will be used to support the Senior Center gardening project.
- Kiosk construction is still scheduled for September/October when NU students return.
- The grant received from NSB will cover the garden development costs.

### **Building Energy Campaign**

- A 1 ½ hour walk-through of the Brown Public Library (BPL) is scheduled for July 22 with Energy Smart. Sarah will be attending on behalf of NEC.
- Following the walkthrough, NEC will help BPL schedule the full energy audit with Energy Smart. The cost of the BPL audit is projected to be \$250 (not \$500 as originally anticipated!). BPL has already approved this cost.
- The NEC agreed to encourage the Select Board to use our group as a resource during the planning for future Town energy decisions. Our collective experience can contribute information and options for the Select Board to consider, as these decisions are made.
- Patrick will prepare an email to acquaint the Select Board with some of those resources.

**EV charging campaign update:**

- Sarah and Bob plan to attend a future Utilities Commission meeting to share Survey results and community comments for an EV comments about establishing a charging station near the Common and to learn Utility Commission thinking on the issue.
- A summary of cost differences for different EV charging station models will be shared.

**Education campaign update:**

- There has been good response to the NEC education campaign (on how renewable our energy is and where it comes from).
- Two questions that were raised that may require further NEC innovation and planning:
  - Does Northfield Electric Department have a discount rate for EV charging at home, as other utilities have? (Currently no, but will bring the feedback to the utility commission).
  - Could Northfield host an e-bike loan program for a short period of time, so residents could test drive e-bikes. The Committee agreed this was a great idea, possibly for Spring 2022. Bob will reach out to the Randolph energy committee, which hosted a similar event, to learn more.
  - The Committee decided that the next education campaign (slated for the fall) will focus on electric vehicles, using resources from Drive Electric Vermont and Efficiency Vermont to share locally.

**Other business:**

- None—electrical storm pending!

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hall, Secretary