



**IREC Steering Committee Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
January 6, 2022 via Zoom**

Present: Elizabeth Ferry - Barnard; Linda Gray – Norwich; Ryan Haac – Sharon; David Lutz – Strafford; Erica Ko - Thetford; Nancy Jones – Bradford; Geoff Martin – TRORC

1. Additions/changes to agenda

Add “Updates” to end of agenda.

2. Approve minutes for 11.4.21

Approved.

3. IREC Climate Action Plan

Review of document organization and revisions.

- Agreement to change “Responsible Party” to “Initiator” and “Closer” to clarify who handles research/development and who makes the final decision.

- Agreement to add a “Partners” column for organizations/people that should be involved (e.g., Vital Communities, VCRD, etc.).

- Agreement to organize actions in various ways, and to try to make it possible to switch “views” – i.e., see the plan organized by type (ex: Community education/Energy --- Committee campaigns, resident actions), or by Initiator or Closer, or by topic (ex: transportation, renewable energy). Discussion on how to do this, agreement to aim for simplicity. To be revisited, with the next version.

- Agreement that Municipal infrastructure plans would be in a separate document, since they vary by town. Option to include a generic version as a section in the main CAP.

- Agreement to add reference to development along existing transit routes and interstates, to the strategy re “Discourage development outside of town/village centers.”

- Agreement to include an action highlighting the need for community water and septic with denser development.

- Discussion, no final decision on how to disseminate Green Guidelines to residents.

- Agreement to revise the “public transit” strategy to “shared transit.”

Review of next steps.

- Agreement to hold a joint meeting this spring with the IREC Steering Committee and the seven town Energy Committees to discuss the CAP and prioritize strategies/actions for the coming year; and to repeat annually to update the CAP.

-Discussion on publishing the CAP and a progress report in towns' Annual Reports each year.

-Agreement to host the CAP on TRORC's website; the towns can link to that.

Geoff noted that Sustainable Woodstock is working to merge regional plan with a Woodstock-specific plan and will ask the Woodstock Selectboard to adopt.

Geoff will revise the CAP for the Steering Committee to review at the next meeting (2/3), then we will circulate it to the town energy committees for feedback.

Geoff can prepare reports on his work for Town Reports; he asked members to specify for him the deadlines and content needed.

4. Updates

- a. Barnard Update (Elizabeth)** – weatherization work in the Barnard Town Hall is complete; contractors were Earthshare Construction, ACT (lighting), and Chey Insulation.
- b. Upper Loveland Solar in Norwich (Linda)** – the 500-kW project is in an area with a cell phone tower and access road, near a transmission line, with houses and roads all around, and within about ¼ mile of the interstate. Following publication of an article in the Valley News <https://www.vnews.com/Solar-array-slated-for-Norwich-44139524> a number of comments objecting to it and motions to intervene were filed.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Gray, Acting Secretary