

**IREC Steering Committee Meeting**

**APPROVED Minutes**

**June 2, 2022 via Zoom**

**Present:** Jenevra Wetmore – Woodstock; Linda Gray – Norwich; Nancy Jones – Bradford; Erica Ko – Thetford; Ryan Haac – Sharon; Elizabeth Ferry – Barnard; Geoff Martin - TRORC

1. **Additions/changes to the agenda:**

Geoff will on vacation for the regularly scheduled August meeting. We will instead meet on August 11th.

1. **Approve minutes from 05-05-2022 meeting:**

Nancy wasn’t listed as present, Geoff added her.

1. **Plan for July meeting on working landscapes/forests**

Geoff sent out resources with hope that people can look through and we can come up with specific questions for meeting or more specific topic that we’d like to discuss with experts.

Possible experts include: David Paganelli, Ali Kosiba, Tim Stout, Tony D’Amato, Pieter Van Loon.

Linda would like to understand modern wood heat and evaluate its carbon impact, and look at the impact of restricting the amount of land that could be cleared to accommodate solar vs. the climate benefits of solar. Elizabeth suggested that we may want to think more broadly in larger context, would like to look at video of example in China of forest restoration. Geoff asked if anyone could speak to this more, and Elizabeth said that she hasn’t seen anyone else talking about his work.

Nancy asked if we could have this meeting open to outside committee to view? Elizabeth said that the Steering Committee’s policy has been that others are welcome, but would be silent participants.

Jenevra asked if this would be related to the town forest plan action item in the CAP. Ryan asked how this is related to lifestyle and how people manage their properties, i.e., tie in Green Guidelines for homeowners action to this. Nancy noted that some people are struggling to pay their oil bills, and energy efficiency wood heat should be an option for them. Elizabeth suggested that government should be responsible for making sure people can heat their homes.

The group agreed that this should become a part of green guidelines action, and that we should continue to explore the topic together, if not at the next meeting.

1. **1st Annual IREC Climate Action Plan Meeting: Recap and discuss next steps**

Let Geoff know if we have feedback on meeting or ideas for next year.

The two actions that rose to the top were green guidelines and RBES, so our towns will pursue these collaboratively over the coming year. Jenevra also brought up point about public outreach. Geoff noted that our CAP will be in town reports, but that we should consider bringing public into this process on a deeper level. Jenevra said she would be willing to host meeting for public. Linda said that she is skeptical of the success of holding public meetings. She suggested doing targeted outreach to something specific that people can do in their lives. Linda also suggested that VCRD might be a good partner for this. Erica said that we need to identify who we think the different stakeholders are.

Geoff wondered if there should be a subcommittee, not necessarily of the steering committee, that’s working on green guidelines and RBES, then potentially if another committee that’s working on public outreach and engagement piece. Linda pointed out that the green guidelines action is mostly about public outreach, so it may be unnecessary to have a separate subcommittee. Nancy suggested doing outreach at town fairs/festivals; the energy committee is planning an event in Bradford. Jenevra said there are two levels of outreach: a public meeting and then engagement on a deeper equity level.

Geoff asked if the group thought it made sense to have a subcommittee for each action groups. Linda suggested that we should devote our next monthly meeting to plotting out for 6 months things we could do in context of the actions. Erica agreed, and thought that having the steering committee further define the actions would be helpful, since we all have different ideas of what these actions would look like. For example, Linda hopes that rentals can come into discussion around RBES. Erica also hopes Elizabeth feels like she can promote and communicate the things we are doing.

Geoff suggested that at our next meeting we will outline actions and bring the outline to energy committees, even though it may not be steering committee that leads each action.

Linda recommended that each steering committee member bring examples of what our energy committees have done related to each action to the next meeting.

Finally, the committee should send feedback on last year to Geoff or talk about it our one-on-ones.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenevra Wetmore, Acting Secretary