



IREC Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes

October 6, 2022 via Zoom

Attendees: Jenevra Wetmore – Woodstock; Ryan Haac – Sharon; Erica Ko – Thetford; David Lutz – Strafford; Linda Gray – Norwich; Nancy Jones – Bradford; Geoff Martin – TRORC

Absent: Elizabeth Ferry

1. **Welcome**
2. **Additions/ changes to agenda**
none
3. **Approve Minutes from 9/1/2022 meeting**

Noted that the Window Dressers campaign in Thetford is in process, not complete. The minutes were approved as amended.

4. IREC Updates

- **Action Group Updates** both met last month & will meet again tomorrow.
 - **RBES Group** has 2 tracks: a) What can each town do to increase compliance with the RBES, both at the local level and through advocacy at the state level? What can towns do to increase energy efficiency in existing homes, both for homeowners and renters?
 - **Green Guidelines Group** Bigger focus on compiling resources that already exist with easy access on a website; TRORC staff will design the website or apply for funding to hire a web designer.
- **Home Energy Bonus Program** Proposal for Towns to use ARPA Funds to provide incentives to homeowners for energy saving upgrades; possibility for TRORC to administer the funding for towns. There would be a fee for administration.
- **Inflation Reduction Act** – Geoff attended Rocky Mountain Institute’s (RMI) webinar on the Inflation Reduction Act. [Click here for a recording of the webinar, and the access code is #FFOLD2021](#). The main takeaways are: a) many of the programs will be administered by the states, and states must have an approved plan by August of 2024; we can encourage Vermont to get its plan together quickly, but it could be a while before funding is available; b) solar tax credits are available now with a base credit of 30%; increased if sited on a brownfield; low income benefit increases by 10%; if site benefits low income families, benefit increases by another 10%; Towns could get up to 80% of an array covered through the direct pay mechanism (i.e., tax-exempt organizations can take advantage).
- **FFOLD Tool** – this tool shows all available and forthcoming fundings for municipalities to advance their climate goals.

5. **Working Landscapes Update** – Standing Trees’ Board Chair, Mark Nelson, and Executive Director, Zach Porter, agreed to come to the November IREC meeting. David will contact David Paganelli; IREC members send questions to Geoff in advance; this meeting will not be open to others, but will be recorded and made available to others after the meeting.

6. Town updates – Bradford

EV charging stations should be installed in Denny Park by the end of October.

Window Dressers workshops are scheduled for November 17-23 at the Bradford Fire Station. Bradford is planning to make 200-250 inserts. A teacher at River Bend Career and Technical Center wants all classroom windows dressed.

Working with EEI to make municipal buildings more energy efficient. Mostly focused on the Bradford Academy. Primarily looking at heating, ventilation, and lighting options. Seeking cost comparisons for different options. Possibly removing one oil boiler and putting in a pellet boiler. There is an underground oil tank that is old and needs to be replaced. The Energy Committee is weighing the cost, energy savings, and GHG reductions of all options.

Butler Bus Services submitted an application to the Clean School Bus Program to replace the bus that serves Oxbow High School. River Bend is interested in applying for funding during the second round, and also in hosting an e-bus demonstration. Finally, [the Future of Rural Transit](#) pilot program is interested in expanding one of Tri-Valley Transit's bus routes to serve both Oxbow students and the general public.