



**IREC Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes**
February 14, 2023 via Zoom

Happy Valentine's Day!

Attendees: Erica Ko- Thetford, David Lutz-Strafford, Jenevra Wetmore-Woodstock, Linda Gray-Norwich, Elizabeth Ferry-Bradford, Ryan Haac-Sharon, Jeff Grout- TRORC

Meeting notes: Jenevra

1. No changes to the agenda.
2. Jeff will edit the December and January meeting notes for publication and the Dec 2022, Jan 2023 and Feb 2023 minutes will be presented for approval at the March meeting.
3. **IREC intro:** Jeff Grout is from Vermont and has engineering experience. He comes to us from Arizona. He's now on the planning commission in Randolph promoting bicycling infrastructure, solar, and EV charging infrastructure. The next phase is meeting each of us and touring our buildings, meet with town manager, facilities managers.
4. **IREC Climate Action Plan (CAP) Redesign:**
 - Kyle sent the redesigned CAP out to everyone prior to the meeting.
 - The CAP is a broad list of ideas, whereas the subcommittee is acting on those ideas. The document is most applicable for municipalities and energy committees as planning document for guidance
 - Comments included: "This is excellent- much more understandable than the spreadsheet".
 - The spreadsheet was available on TRORC website so it should be replaced by this document. ACTION: Jeff
 - The CAP should be used as running guidance and updated at least every year.
 - All of our town energy committees have seen the spreadsheet but not necessarily this document.
 - Jeff will send out an email about the document to all IREC towns and is planning to meet with our energy committees. It can be an item of discussion to generate ideas about projects that can be completed in their towns.
 - The final design was created by Julie, a graphic designer that works with Sustainable Woodstock.

5. Community Action for Individuals Group

- There's a webpage on TRORC, the group would like it to be a resource available to all of our energy committee's so we can link to websites providing good information. Can it be more prominent?
<https://www.trorc.org/programs/energy/irec/climateactionforyou/>
- It is important to keep it up to date with relevant information. ACTION: Jeff
- Hartford is organizing Energize UV event April 1st at WRJ at the Listen Center and many topics will be covered at this event. The idea was made to have each town sponsor a monthly presentation in sequence after April 1st, rotating through the EC towns.
- Sustainable Woodstock also has many Clean Energy events scheduled and I was discussed that it would also be very valuable for the EC and IREC to promote these events and the many other Clean Energy events put on by other groups in the area. This could be ongoing- making people aware of events and spread info. For example, the Sustainable Woodstock events and Thetford has an upcoming battery storage event.
- Scheduling and coordinating these events could be a possible IREC sub-group. It would be a valuable resource to put together an easily accessible listing of all clean energy events in our area – is any group doing this now? – Is this a good use of IREC resources? –
- It would help people make important energy decisions such as EVs or heat pump, food waste, voting,...etc.
- The resource should be sure to include simple free actions as smaller pathways are more likely to be adopted by people.

6. RBES Working Group Update

- There is outreach coming up that will go to ZAs in our towns, Kevin is putting a training together. He will bring a master checklist for ZAs to march RBES meeting, the general topic is all the regulations that ZAs and town employees should be aware of. This is because they are mostly laypeople and not trained. We will then have opportunity to provide info on that section.
- We will all invite our towns for this training when Kevin has set a date.
- Next will be creating bylaws (such as EV ready) and have intro launch for planning commissions, then hopefully get some of these bylaws passed
- Sharon is hoping for a building notification process like Hartland (because no zoning)
- The RBES code is a state requirement however there is no enforcement. The first step is to pass state laws that authorize towns to choose HERS ratings for RBES compliance

7. Climate / Forests

- Information was attached to this meeting agenda on the telephone gap logging proposal, Standing Trees nonprofit has info on this. Please read and send in your comments on the logging proposal.
- This information was greatly appreciated and it was discussed that it would be a great idea for one member each Steering Committee meeting to send out information on an energy topic relevant to the group. The group decided that this could be done on a rotating basis and Ryan volunteered to do this for the March meeting.

8. Wrap up

- This is a time to focus on the energy needs of your town and prioritize and define projects as there is a lot of grant money available for energy projects.
- Discussion on solar panel recycling: can be recycled, mostly glass and silicone. Solar cells themselves don't go bad, the encapsulate between the glass and solar cell is yellowing and not letting as much sun to penetrate. This causes some solar users to replace their panels when they still have a lot of useful life left.
- Discussed solar canopies over parking lots, trails, roads may offer some potential. A visit to Lawson's in Waitsfield would be beneficial to get first hand insight to the performance of solar canopies in the VT environment.
- Discussed that solar tracking systems with EV charging are very efficient and have very good potential for many applications.

The next meeting will be a ZOOM meeting at 1 pm on March 14.

Ryan will provide information for the discussion at the end of the March meeting.