

IREC Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2023 via Zoom

Present: Ryan Haac, Nancy Jones, Jenevra Wetmore, Linda Gray, Erica Ko, Elizabeth Ferry, Jeff Grout

1. Accepted minutes from the March 14 meeting.

2. Additions to the agenda:

- a)RBES training for Zoning Administrators: Notification will go out to Zoning Administrators this week. The session, to be held on April 27, will address multiple topics. May be a half or full day.
- b)TRORC newsletter and calendar: TROC is open to including any announcements from Energy Committees in their newsletter, which comes out approximately monthly.

ACTION: If you plan to submit an item, tell Jeff in advance so as not to miss the floating deadline.

3. CAP website update

Edits submitted by committee members will be entered this week. Language will be revised to make sure that these are suggested actions but not directed. As previously discussed, the Excel version of the CAP will be removed.

ACTION: committee members will check website week of 4/17 and give feedback

4. Electrifying our Grounds Crew equipment — mowers and yard tools

In follow-up from our March meeting, Jeff spoke with Peggy O'Neil-Vivianco of Vermont Clean Cities about a demonstration of electric grounds-tending equipment. Two options: a central event with multiple vendors or equipment from one vendor traveling to talk with crews in various towns. Discussion:

- Bradford will hold a ribbon-cutting celebration of Level 3 chargers in May, date TBD. Other impressive e-equipment for that event includes an electric backhoe, excavator, and maybe a bus. Location: downtown Bradford. The public is invited, including our towns.
- Bradford has clarified that their new audience is citizens; the road crew is already on board.
- **Only Norwich and Woodstock have municipal ground crews.** Other towns have contracts with private companies, of which Rooted Gardens in Norwich is only known e-equipment user.

ACTION

- Nancy will send more event info when the date is set. We all will publicize.
- David Lutz offers to video and edit presentations from the Bradford event for later viewing.
- Jenevra favors of a visit to the two towns with municipal ground crews (Woodstock, Norwich).
- All: send Jeff the name of the entity (town staff, contractor) that oversees grounds in our towns.

5. Electric School buses (from federal grant) update

Discussion re: installation of charging infrastructure. Sharon's supervisory union has changed bus services (no longer working with Butler). Ryan is working to address complications.

- Sharon is changing school bus contract from Butler to Student Transportation of America. They may not want the eBus that was awarded to Butler.
- Jeff to verify the dates to apply for an eBus 2023 grant award.

6. MERP

Woodstock and Sharon have already applied. Discussion. Can't buy things with the grant, but can talk about it or do a study — ex: could buy weatherization materials to give out at an educational event.

ACTION: Jeff will create a shared document for MERP mini-grant projects and post to Dropbox. Will include list of who oversees public grounds maintenance (see #4, final action item).

Next IREC Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 9, 2023 at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Ferry