



**IREC Steering Committee
MINUTES of May 9, 2023 Meeting**

Present: Jeff Grout, Elizabeth Ferry, Jenevra Whetmore, Ryan Haac, Erica, Ko, David Lutz, Nancy Jones

1. Minutes of the previous approved.

Action: Jeff will post to DropBox.

2. RBES Zoning Administrator training update.

TRORC has hosted a Zoning Administrator (ZA) training session. Included in the program: ZAs must provide a copy of the RES handbook to residents seeks a building permit for new construction.

Currently 45% of new construction is meeting the RBES standards. Note that if the permit-seeker is building an addition, the guidelines apply only to the addition.

Enforcement at the municipal level remains an unaddressed question. We note that the bill that the Steering Committee helped to craft did not progress in the way we'd hoped. Now the legislation is for a study group on the topic.

Actions:

A. Jeff will post to Dropbox, or send a link, so that we can see if our town official attended.

B. Jeff will send the presentation slides of the ZA training session.

3. TRORC updated website — June is the anticipated completion date.

Actions: Send comments, photos, or videos to Jeff.

4. EV Charging Station Grant for Commercial Buildings: EV charging equipment.

Vermont Clean Cities Coalition (VCCC) is available to work with towns and businesses to gage interest in workplace charging stations. This is a federal program with state-wide Vermont implementation and is appropriate for medium to large businesses. Would be appropriate for a Bradford business with 100 employees, for example.

Action: Anyone interested should talk with Jeff and VCCC staff person Peggy O'Neil-Vivanco.

5. Green Grounds Maintenance Demonstration Day update:

Bradford will receive three Level 3 electric charging stations, to be installed by Norwich Technologies "some time this summer." Timing has not been defined, so the date for the ribbon cutting celebration has not yet been set.

This means we can't yet plan to piggyback a more general "green grounds maintenance equipment demo" on this event.

Jeff has discovered interest at the Woodstock High School campus, where they are purchasing commercial grade electric lawn mowing equipment. Woodstock might serve as an alternative demo site, if cleared through the appropriate town channels.

Idea: Consider creating an RPF for multiple towns to hire a lawn-care company using electric equipment. Having several clients could be attractive to a new or existing business.

Note that Thetford SB is considering bi-weekly weekly lawn cutting as a way to save energy.

Action: Committee members reach out to contractors or grounds crew, schools, golf courses, road crews to encourage them to see demo equipment when event is scheduled. Preferred scheduling: on a week day shortly after school is out. Can be publicized to all towns (not just IREC towns). Nancy will bring it up at the TRORC board meeting.



6. Electric school bus application. This year's deadline is August 22. Any school that applied in 2022 but was not selected has a good chance in 2023.

New this year: bus service contractors (for example, Butler) can apply directly; the application no longer needs to come from a school district.

Discussion of infrastructure costs.

Action: Jeff will learn more of the details. Pursue this in the 1:1 conversations.

7. VT Geothermal Alliance is offering to do a presentation for any EC. They are ready to install geothermal to serve multiple buildings in close proximity to each other, such that they would all share one system.

Action: Bradford and Barnard are interested in learning more. If a Zoom session, both towns could tune in. Talk further with Jeff to arrange.

8. Town Energy Inventory: On going. Jeff will have it ready soon.

9. MERP update: Mini-grants are available now; applications are imminent for (free) building assessments. To prepare for an assessment, gather 5 years of utility data, preferably in digital form, as well as information on square footage, insulation and construction materials. TRORC can assist with these applications.

POST-MEETING DISCUSSION:

Wild New World: The Epic Story of Animals and People in America by Dan Flores

Ryan said this book has helped him to contextualize the big story of how we arrived here and where we can expect to go. The author explores the last 40,000 years in North and South American history, and how humans can have caused significant changes. Highly recommended. Difficult —but ultimately, illuminating.

A note that resonates with parts of discussion that we've had over the years: Flores' emphasis on the importance of keeping as much forest and wildlife as we can.

Also from the discussion:

LAWSON'S BREWERY in Waitsfield has a solar canopy. We brainstormed inviting our town road crews, local grounds crews, and others on a road trip to see it. On an early evening in June, travel together on the electric bus that was demo-ed in Bradford?

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Grout