



**IREC Steering Committee
MINUTES of August 8, 2023 Meeting**

Present: Jeff Grout – TRORC IREC, Linda Gray - Norwich, Ryan Haac - Sharon, Nancy Jones - Bradford, Erica Ko - Thetford, Jenevra Wetmore – Sustainable Woodstock, David Lutz - Strafford

1. Welcome/ agenda
2. Minutes of the July 11th meeting approved.
3. MERP Mini-grants:
 - Norwich and Strafford have received their mini-grant funds.
 - Sharon and Woodstock have sent the invoice to receive funds.
 - Bradford and Thetford need to send an invoice to BGS in order to receive their MERP mini-grant.
4. MERP assessments:
 - All IREC towns are in the process of gathering the information required to apply for a MERP Energy Assessment.
 - Bradford and Norwich have submitted their applications for a Level 2 assessment.
 - Jeff is working with the remaining IREC towns to gather the information required.
5. EVSE grant for level 2 chargers is open:
[VT EV Chargers - Vermont EV Charging \(vermontevchargers.com\)](http://vermontevchargers.com)
 - Thetford has submitted the pre-application form for two Level 2 EV chargers. One to be located at the town office and one at the elementary school.
 - No other towns have reported applying for the funds.
6. Bradford charging station
The area has been marked for construction which is imminent
Schedule for commissioning of the project is undetermined until completion is assured
7. Lebanon EV event is scheduled for September 30th, 10 am – 3pm
<https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=3930> all are encouraged to participate
8. Municipal solar inquiry
 - Seems that most participants' towns already have some sort of municipal power and/or fully subscribed to maximum limit.
 - Ryan shared that large 2 MW array within industrial park, owned by private entity, has shared interest in selling ownership. Unsure of the details of why, how much, etc. Going to explore and get more details as this could potentially serve interest for many towns, industries and individuals.



(Con't)

9. Energy Committee forms of organization discussed
 - Bradford – The Select Board placed the Energy Committee under Planning Commission's charge
 - Sharon – town energy committee is endorsed by town
 - Thetford – town appointed the committee but new change may be committee is "charged"
 - Linda Gray stated that VECAN may be the best source at determining options for committee organization

10. Discussion item - Route 5 bike corridor
 - Linda mentioned that VTrans has been tasked by the legislature to do a survey this fall of municipal support for a bike corridor along all of Rt 5 (see language below), and that members of the e- bike loan group are working to ensure a positive response. The survey will be carried out by the RPCs and directed to municipal contacts. The bike loan group will alert supporters when the survey is out.
 - Nancy stated that there is a section of Route 5 that is very narrow between Bradford and Fairlee that even feels unsafe driving, so obviously some challenges.
 - There was also mention that the Prouty often uses this in their annual bike rides and perhaps their organization can help in developing this corridor.

REF:

- (a) The Agency of Transportation, in partnership with regional planning commissions through the annual Transportation Planning Initiative, shall conduct a survey of municipal support for the creation of a bicycle corridor— consisting of one or more segments of bicycle lanes or bicycle paths, or both— to provide a safe means of travel via bicycle on or along a route that is roughly adjacent to U.S. Route 5 for the approximately 190 miles spanning between the State border with Massachusetts and the State border with Quebec, Canada
- (b) The survey shall address the level of interest of municipalities and regional planning commissions in prioritizing the creation of a bicycle corridor along some or all of U.S. Route 5, including the consideration of the costs of creation and benefits to the tourism industry in Vermont in general and to the municipalities along U.S. Route 5 in particular.
- (c) The Agency shall provide a report on outcome of the survey to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation on or before January 15, 8 2024

Respectfully submitted,

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