

**Joint Thetford Energy Committee Meeting DRAFT MINUTES
May 10, 2022, 5:30 to 7:00 PM**

Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84990739431?pwd=WXJYYmhUaFYrLzJlVmZtMnIEVUpYUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 9073 9431; Passcode: 741339

To call in only: +1 646 558 8656; Meeting ID: 849 9073 9431; Passcode: 741339

JTEC Present: Alice, Erica, Tom, Nolan, Stephanie, Chuck, Chris

Call to order: 5:45 pm

5:45 Review and Approve April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

ALL: Series of topics for the list serve – review Alice’s google document

5:35 Event Updates (Tom)

Earth Day event

- Went really well, 26 Evs, a number of organizations were there
- Multitown event is a great approach, easier to plan, easier to getting people to central events
- IREC should facilitate more of this multitown events

ELawn event (see flier for May 21 event)

- 5 towns involved, Sustainable Hanover has joined in
- Sent a survey out to find equipment owners that will bring equipment – have 10 people coming
- Foggs cannot join, short staffed
- Chuck will be able to assist (thanks!)
- Has posted on Listserve
- Bryan Gazda
 - As long as just owners of the equipment using / demonstrating the equipment we will not need liability release form. Critical is for owners to wear proper protective gear.
 - He can ensure a section of the green will not be mowed
- Steve sending big banner, very helpful
- ***Chuck will ask Jonas if we can borrow tent; or Bob Walker, or post on list serve***
- ***Tom will need to print color posters and flyers – contact Tracy Borst – send the PDFs, charge to JTEC budget, will also ask Martie/Tracy about use of Sandwich board***
- ***Alice will put up signage at recycling Center***
- ***Before or After the event, listserve posts or direct people to Mow Electric and VT rebate programs and associated hardware stores***
- Rain plan – pray for sun!

5:45 E-V Charging Station Study Presentation to SB (Alice)

- Presentation went fine
- Study, town hall, TES and Huggetts were possibilities – Huggetts only place possible for level 3 charger, and level 2 for other 2 sites

- A lot of questions on cost – which depends on the options chosen; and much of the installation is the cost of digging up pavement, so cost efficiencies could be found there
- If installation happens at Huggetts, there will need to be a legal agreement for sustained public access
- Have people seen problems with Level 2 chargers (eg at Dan & Whits)
- TES for example could have 3-4 chargers
- Next steps:
 - **Alice to send email to Bryan to inquire which sites should be explored**
 - SB needs to decide what they want to do in terms of sites to explore – **JTEC should give some guidance and direction, to be discussed at next meeting**
 - Then Geoff to explore potential funding sources (these recommendations are in the study) (Geoff has agreed to be a resource for the SB)

6:20 IREC Updates (Erica) Green Procurement Policy and EEI Proposal for Town Hall HVAC (Documents Attached to Agenda email)

- Erica & Chris attended the SB meeting with Geoff Martin
- Green Procurement Policy
 - Bryan had some concerns as he isn't only authority for purchasing for the town, and changes were made.
 - Additional changes requested by SB particularly to remove the term 'shall' to ensure the town maintains flexibility of options, and this version will likely pass. Document fairly general but could be a good reference for future SB decisions.
 - Nolan willing to talk with Dave Goodrich and others in SB to understand his concerns and find common ground. Smaller 1:1 meetings usually more effective.
- EEI proposal
 - Town hall wing AC unit broken; we'd prefer this wasn't replaced with a similar unit, but decision needs to be made quickly as hot weather will come soon
 - Still need remaining pieces of information to finalize – specifically the budget breakdown from the 3rd proposal – but still some problems with the budget EEI provided; labor costs seems high and Erica and Chris are trying to understand why
 - Solar possibility: SB has expressed interest in being part of the TES array, this would make the AC energy greener, unclear if this would impact the decision on the proposal
 - Has SB passed any resolution on fossil fuel free by [date]? No – but the GPP referenced the town plan
 - MOTION Made and passed: we authorize Erica and Chris to find the remaining information from EEI and make a recommendation to the town on behalf of the entire JTEC on the town's HVAC improvement plan

ARPA funding

- Unclear what the process will be
- Roads, child care centers, etc are priorities
- Sustainable Woodstock is getting together options for towns to consider ARPA investments in energy efficiency, we could build on this to propose ideas
 - Ideas include supporting weatherization, mileage smart efforts, etc
 - Town buying down cost of a solar array – TES array for example, in which the town could invest and then buy down the cost of solar
 - JTEC could make a list of options for the SB to put in a town survey

- We should frame this clearly that this would be an opportunity for the town to increase access to low income households to sustainable energy solutions
- **All committee members send ideas for ARPA funds to Erica and discuss in next meeting**

May 26 IREC 7-town energy committee meeting and potluck. Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/first-annual-irec-climate-action-plan-meeting-tickets-329019625557>

- **Erica will send JTEC more information and a survey for everyone to complete**

Everyone:

- **Update your portion of the website, send new content to Tom**
- **Sign up for a few list serve posts in Alice's google doc**

Committee Charge Review (Nolan) Please review JTEC Mission Statement on the Town's Commission-Committee Charges spreadsheet (attached to Agenda email)

- This topic tabled until next meeting

7:00 Adjourn

UPDATES SENT BY EMAIL:

From Stephanie: Window Dressers

- Norwich is willing to allocate Thetford inserts (approximately 100)
- Jody Biddle has agreed to find between 8-10 households in Thetford that want window inserts, and they'll be built in the Norwich/Hanover build Oct 4-11. Our preference, and that of the Norwich WD is to identify low income households so Jody is starting with the list of families that were on WD from last year that wanted more inserts plus Capstone lists. She is verifying with Linda of Norwich on the number of inserts we have to allocate.
- After that I'll be able to re-draft the content for the website. This means we will need a few people to measure, but we're pretty confident with the 4-5 volunteers we have that that won't be a problem. We can then also piggy back on Norwich's recruitment for volunteers for the build.

From Geoff re: Post Mills solar array

I've spoken with Erika at GMEDC and Troy at Norwich Technologies to think through timeline and outreach. GMEDC needs funding to do a final site assessment before construction can begin. Erika has been searching all over for funding but hasn't had luck yet. She's still hopeful that it will come through soon. It's possible that this hold up with the site assessment could give Norwich Technologies grounds to ask for an extension of the CPG, which would be great.

Norwich Technologies would like to have a list of participants in June. I know GMEDC and Norwich Technologies are sensitive to being able to complete the project before the CPG expires, which means they have to finish most of the construction before winter. But both parties also recognize that June is likely an unreasonable timeline, given the hold up with the site assessment, and they would be willing to work with us to extend the timeline.

Norwich Technologies is in negotiations with an investor for this project who is not an impact investor. I have an idea to help bring the discount down (either for this project, or more likely for the expansion of the TES array), which Erica will be sharing with the JTEC on Tuesday. It

depends on the Selectboard's willingness to use town ARPA funds to support the project(s), but if they are willing to do so, Norwich Technologies said they would work with the investor to lower the discount for income-qualified residents.

In terms of outreach, I am planning to do targeted outreach as you suggested in your email a couple of weeks ago, but I didn't want to start that outreach until we know the project is moving forward. In addition to the targeted outreach, Erica and I thought it would make sense to do general outreach to all Thetford residents at the same time, since there is no way that we could subscribe the full 500 kW array with residents. Troy confirmed that it's unrealistic to think that we could fill up all 500 kW. Even if we were extremely successful and managed to do so, we could put people on a wait list and sign them up for the TES array when that's ready.

Hope this helps, and let me know if you have questions/suggestions.

Best,

Geoff Martin | Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator

Future Meeting Topics

Committee Charge Review (Nolan) *Please review JTEC Mission Statement on the Town's Commission-Committee Charges spreadsheet (attached to Agenda email)*

Possible ideas for use of ARPA funds (Erica)

Decision making criteria for efficiency investment (Marc Chabot)

Post Mills Solar Array Update (Mike Kiess) and financing for income qualifying participation

Expanding TES array (Mike Kiess)

Next Meeting June 2, 2022

Adjourn 7 pm