

2. EV Charger Grant: We didn't get the grant we applied for, according to Harry Falconer. We asked for \$4,000 toward a budget of \$2,958 for equipment, electrician, and two-year prepurchase of charging software with a \$1,000 contingency. A Charge Vermont grant application wouldn't be appropriate for Barrett Hall, only for a workplace. Here was our breakdown for the proposal we submitted:

- Grant request: \$4,000 (\$2,958 + contingency)
- Electrician: ~\$1,400
- ConnectDER meter collar: ~\$600
- Charger Grizzl-E Ultimate 48A: \$458
- Epic Charging two years pre-paid: \$500
- Contingency: \$1,042
- Overruns
- Taxes
- State electrical permit

3. Renewal of Intra-Municipal Energy Coordinator (IREC): Harry Falconer explained that the IREC position at Twin Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), which is funded by contributions from member towns, is up for its annual review and renewal. Harry wrote to Dorian that he has submitted his request to the selectboard to re-authorize the program.

Secondly, David Lutz's letter of resignation of our committee was shared with group. We will need a new representative on the IREC Steering Committee. Vanessa expressed interest and would like to know more about what's involved. **ACTION ITEM:** Dorian will ask Harry Falconer for a description of the role of town representative on the IREC steering committee.

Harry replied at once, so this can be included in the meeting minutes:

"The steering committee **meets as a group once a month**. Right now, that's **third Tuesdays from 1:00–2:30pm**, but we could always talk about changing that if that time is a no-go for Strafford's new rep.

"I set the agenda for those meetings and typically provide updates on ongoing projects and discuss any new funding or collaboration opportunities that are relevant to the whole group. We also typically have some time for open discussion so others can bring things that are on their minds.

"I also meet monthly with each steering committee rep one-on-one for up to an hour to discuss town-specific efforts. We can set that for whenever is convenient for the Strafford rep.

"Ideally, the new rep would be an energy committee member, but that doesn't necessarily have to be the case. I'll also point out that it's technically up to the selectboard to appoint David's replacement, but I'm sure they would appreciate you recommending one to them, as I'm not even sure David told them about his departure, and they're usually very hands-off with the SEC steering committee. I'm sure they'll probably appoint whoever you recommend."

4. Strafford General Store update. Not yet done. **Action Item: Dorian and Susan** will talk to Adam about highlighting the store's green-products offerings, as we previously did with the Coburns.

5. Strafford Community Solar update: For the town to consider buying the array, a persuasive case would need to be made to the Selectboard as part of the Capital Planning process that this would be an excellent investment to provide power for the coming x number of years and is almost certainly (barring some catastrophic failure) going to repay the investment.

Matt said he'd reached the "water's edge" of his knowledge of this kind of project. Matt reminded us that our role as advisors to the town is premised on making a case to the town generating its own electricity. If some other entity moves forward as a potential buyer, isn't it more difficult to see this as our committee's

purview to help someone buy the array? Someone will buy it, now that the original owners have used up their credits. Without sharing details from the Ecology spreadsheet directly at this time, she will discuss with Peter what would be involved in a town acquiring the array. **ACTION ITEM:** **Vanessa** offered to talk with Peter Sterling at Renewable Energy Vermont about this kind of opportunity, in general, not at this time sharing any of the proprietary information Ecology provided. **ACTION ITEM:** Jim will ask Dori Wolfe how the community and municipal partnerships were set up for the array: Were they investors.

6. Follow-up on Flood Forum: Report from Vanessa

Turnpike Road Road: Judy Englander hosted, with sixteen participants. Very successful gathering. Judy said, “There was no ‘us’ before the Flood Forum. They’ve formed two sub-committees. It was really helpful to have Vanessa moderate because there was so much enthusiasm in the meeting.

Susan asked what galvanized this robust turn-out. For her area, Susan went to every house, and their meeting had two participants, and one has responded for follow-up. Vanessa suggested that Susan talk to Judy Englander. Is the Turnpike neighborhood already more connected?

Toni Pippy attended this meeting and was able to clarify what services the town provides in emergency situations.

Vanessa said that one person, Phil Dimond, was very focused on electricity resilience specifically. His interest was more technical than others’; maybe he’d like to be on this committee? **ACTION ITEM:** **Vanessa** will ask Phil Dimond if he’d like to attend the first part of our January committee meeting to talk about electricity resilience.

Alger Brook Road: Gathering will be hosted by Vanessa and Scot and Becky and Jim on Saturday, January 24 at 1 p.m.

As these groups develop ideas, Vanessa suggested that we have a web page with resources (“What do you put in a go-bag?” “Who do you call about a washed-out road?”)

What defines a neighborhood? Kaz said, “Where you can get on foot.”

Might there be a role for satellite phones by neighborhood? Did Jason Schumacher talk about communications when he met with us? He was more focused on emergency shelters.

Some neighborhoods *are* more connected (Turnpike, Alger Brook), and others are less so, and we’ll need to help the neighborhoods (for instance Miller Pond Road) where people are more spread out, where there are town borders, where people aren’t present as much.

Kaz asked if our resiliency-related projects might be eligible for this grant program, newly announced: <https://www.vtrural.org/climate-economy/resilient-communities/#1671732988192-6325e7cf-86c2>

ACTION ITEM: We will share reports and testimonials from these neighborhood gatherings on the list-serve.

7. Matt report on thermal camera: Matt has roughed out the educational materials. Matt will let us know when he has completed educational material for the thermal camera and when his home is available for a demonstration, etc. **Vanessa, Kaz,** and **Susan** will also participate in some form of community presentation to introduce the new camera. Perhaps this could be done at the library, which is where the camera will be available for loan?. **ACTION ITEM:** To be discussed in January. **Susan** offered to help.

8. Energy-efficient households visits: This is an idea that needs to be discussed and developed. We could feature one home at a time (for instance, on the first Saturday morning of the month), or we could offer several homes to be visited on a specified day. The idea would be to show a variety of approaches and allow people time to see what choices are available, with time to ask questions. **ACTION ITEM:** To be discussed in January.

9. List Serve postings renewals: [provide list]

Plan for 2026: Discuss and fill in at January meeting.

January: heating MATT

February: transportation _____

March: Lawn & garden SUSAN

April: Building MATT

May: Food (Featured green products at the store? DORIAN

June: Solar _____

July: PETS Impacts and options for kitty litter and food? Keeping household animals inside?

August: _____

September: ___ DORIAN

October: Forests?

November: Garbage & recycling JIM

December: plastics or redo holiday posting SUSAN

Discussion of finding a balance between proscription and preaching and personal learning. People can be very defensive about pets, for instance. Keeping the emphasis on how our town meets our Net Zero goal, not lecturing people about their choices.

10. Discussion of recruiting new members. One idea is to invite Phil Dimond from the Turnpike meeting, who wanted to talk about electricity resilience, to come to our January or February meeting.

Announcements:

Stafford Climate Action book group for coming year: Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Serviceberry*, Victory Gardens discussion before planting season

Jim and Becky's home is for sale: People who are interested are welcome to contact us at beckyalicebailey@gmail.com or jschley@sover.net

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm. Next meeting is January 13, 2025 at 7 pm on Zoom.