

Northfield Energy Committee

March 5, 2019

Present: Jane Pekol, Sarah Wolfe, Denise MacMartin, Gail Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chair Jane Pekol.

Old Business

Recap of the commuter bus vote at Town Meeting: Members discussed how to start planning for increased ridership. Sarah suggested we form subcommittees, one of which would be Transportation. Gail suggested having a Community Forum at the Pub, similar to forums we've held on other issues. Denise brought up the question of parking and whether or not we could work with the Town and businesses to designate a few spaces for extended parking for bus riders. Sarah volunteered, and all agreed, that she will be the point person between NEC and GMT. A tentative date of Wednesday, March 27 at 6:00 pm was set for the Community Forum. Jane will arrange the venue, Gail will reach out to other groups.

General discussion of our role in issues – balance between providing information and taking a position. There was agreement that this will vary from issue to issue and we will need to continue to be attentive to what is the right mix, as well as clearly identifying NEC when we provide information to the public.

Review of documents for formal submission to the Town Manager for final approval as a Town Committee: Sarah has written up website text for what will appear on the Municipal website, and she has gathered other documents that need to be submitted. Decisions regarding term limits and meeting schedule were made. Term limits for this first group will be as follows: Jane Pekol, Sarah Wolfe, and Nicholas Laskovski, 3 years; Gail Hall and Denise MacMartin, 2 years. Specific roles within the group will be determined by members, with a schedule of change as of yet to be determined but probably annually. Members should send relevant website links to Sarah for inclusion in the website text. NEC will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, at Norwich University Communication Building, Room 113.

Button Up Campaign: Our official role as a Community Partner is over. Sarah will try to get some statistics regarding Northfield participation. We can plan ahead sooner for next year to have a more defined, active role that will allow us to do more follow-up than what we could do with our role this time.

New Business

Gail reported on her attendance at the February 25 NCDN meeting. NCDN wants coordination with and help from other groups for upcoming events: June 8, Night on the Crescent; August 6, possible Norwich 200th Birthday Party for/with Northfield residents; August 27, Night on the Common. There was general discussion about what our role would be at these various events. Discussion will continue at subsequent meetings.

There was discussion of NEC representation at meetings of other town groups, and how to cover Select Board meetings. There was agreement that we will attend Select Board meetings as frequently as possible. Members were assigned as follows to other groups: Sarah, Utility Commission; Jane, Conservation Committee; Gail, NCDN; Denise, Planning Commission.

Sarah provided information about an upcoming Climate Resiliency Conference, June 7 & 8, at Norwich. She will keep the group informed as conference details are determined.

The next meeting is March 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise MacMartin
NEC Secretary