

Northfield Energy Committee

July 16, 2019

Present: NEC Members - Jane Pekol, Denise MacMartin, Gail Hall
Public Participants – Karen Wagner

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jane Pekol.

Minutes from the July 2, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Commuter Bus: Gail reported on attending one of the GMT forums on proposed changes (elimination of the midday run for the Northfield Commuter). GMT rep Rachel Kennedy led the forum and as Gail was the only attendee she had an opportunity to ask a lot of questions. GMT regularly reviews its routes and proposes adjustment. Services are based on ridership AND need, so although #93 ridership is not (yet) robust, the need is great as many who use the bus have no other means of transportation. Gail has been talking with Norwich and Cabot Hosiery regarding bus use for students and employees. There is much interest; the hope is to survey these groups and get information that can inform next steps. Because the decision rests with the Select Board (according to GMT) a recommendation and what has been learned will be shared with them. Gail also met with the NU personnel who are involved in the kiosk idea and there has been some progress in determining how to proceed and what this could look like. Per the recommendation of GMT, Gail will reach out to a tri-county rural area that has increased bus ridership by 30% as they may have useful information. Two GMT reps will be attending the NEC August 6 meeting. It seems there may be a delay in implementation of any proposed changes, and there will be follow up to learn more details about the timeline.

Go Vermont Grant: NEC is the recipient of a \$500.00 Go Vermont VTRANS grant to promote Northfield's Commuter Bus. These funds can be used for further events and activities that are designed to increase visibility and ridership. Thanks to Sarah Wolfe for all of her work on this grant.

EV Charging Station: Jane received information regarding the ongoing annual maintenance of an EV charging station (cost varies depending on sophistication of the station, but \$400 is a ballpark figure).

Common Connections Event: NEC has been invited to participate in the Common Connections event "Take a Walk to Dog River Park" on Saturday, August 10, 12:15 PM. There was discussion on possible interactive activities (such as ride an electric bike to make a slushy), as well as the idea they proposed for building bike racks from pallets. Denise will seek out some builders from our larger mailing list to see what may be feasible regarding the bike racks.

The next meeting is August 6, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the Brown Public Library Community Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise MacMartin
NEC Secretary