

Citizens' Energy Challenge Committee

Minutes of July 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm

Present: Members Nicholas Solitro, Pierre Duval, and Denise Stetson; Juliana Berry, Town Planner.

Absent: Richard Galipeau

A motion was made by D. Stetson, seconded by P. Duval, to approve the minutes of May 23, 2018. A correction was made stating that P. Duval had abstained from voting on the April minutes. All Ayes for the amended minutes.

Malinda Howard and Karen Stewart from SmartPower gave a presentation on the new WeeGreen initiative. They said that the Solarize program is no longer tied to the deadlines of the State, and WeeGreen has helped pick up where the State left off. WeeGreen is an internet-based site that is used as a platform for any organization or municipality to use, whether it be for Solarize, education, or as a marketplace for energy efficient products. It can also be used to fundraise for any projects that the organization or municipality has in mind.

The fundraising is achieved when people purchase products online from approved WeeGreen vendors. 20% of the product cost is passed on to the cooperating organization. A portion of committed Solarize installations also contribute to the fundraising.

WeeGreen relies on local volunteers to do the outreach, promote the initiative, and recruit participating vendors, preferably local. This latter aspect also helps with the "buy local" campaigns aimed to keep money in neighborhood businesses.

Jamestown and Narragansett are currently utilizing WeeGreen for their Solarize programs and SmartPower encouraged Richmond to look at those websites, and pointed out that this could be the right time for Richmond to join Solarize.

J. Berry noted that WeeGreen requires a substantial time commitment, and it is not something that she can do as one staff person. The Committee came to the consensus to meet again to discuss the initiative and be realistic about the amount of time the Committee members can devote, and that R. Galipeau should be present for that discussion. An August meeting will be scheduled.

A Troop Leader and Scout from Troop 1 Richmond attended as members of the public, and indicated that perhaps the troop would be willing to be involved.

On a motion by Solitro, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

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Attested by Denise L. Stetson, Secretary