

## MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING (“CEC”)

November 20, 2019

CITY HALL, 9 DALE AVENUE, 3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

(Approved at meeting of 6/23/21)

**Members Present:** Linda Brayton, John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders, Candace Wheeler.

**Guest:** Sam Ziergiebel whose appointment to the CEC has been approved by Ordinances and Administration Committee and is pending final approval of the City Council.

**Staff:** None, however **Mr. Cademartori** on November 20 provided a written update to **Ms. Wheeler** on certain matters. See discussion below.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of the September 26, 2019 meeting, incorporating two changes by **Ms. Brayton**, were unanimously approved.

### 1. Staff and Member Updates and Discussions:

**Offshore Wind: Mr. Moskal** reported on a multi-agency offshore wind meeting in Boston to look at post operation oversight. Attending were some members of the Coast Guard, EPA and other agencies to discuss what the protocols may be and provide input to run inspection programs. Other discussions were concerning the year-long delay of the Vineyard wind project and the cumulative effect of all the proposed projects. Part of the issue with the Vineyard project was that their power pricing was locked in based upon a tax credit that they would be able to take advantage of given the previous timing of construction and whether they would now have to renegotiate the price due to a new construction start date.

**Ms. Brayton** mentioned an AEEC award naming the state of Massachusetts number one in energy efficiency in the nation for the ninth year in a row and that Action Inc. had a significant role in obtaining that rating. **Mr. Moskal** questioned some of the assumptions made to calculate the actual savings.

**Community Development Update: Ms. Wheeler** shared an update she received from **Mr. Cademartori**:

- SolSmart: A link to the spreadsheet outlining the standards the city has met in order to meet a “Silver” rating will be provided.
- Solar Ordinance: **Mr. Cademartori** will discuss at the next CEC meeting that he is able to attend. It is still in draft form.
- HeatSmart: **Ms. Wheeler** asked about the possibility of the city applying to the next HeatSmart program round with an application due in January or February 2020. **Mr. Cademartori** suggested that the CEC discuss the merits of this program and decide if it is something we would recommend to the city. HeatSmart Mass is a community-based outreach and education program for the adoption of clean heating and cooling technologies including air-source heat pumps, ground-source heat pumps, modern wood heating, and solar hot water. It is a competitively bid program modeled on the Solarize Massachusetts program. Each participating community (joint collaboration of communities is permitted) competitively selects designated installer(s) to offer

one or more of the technologies. **Ms. Wheeler** will circulate further program information to CEC members for review and further discussion and to then advise **Mr. Cademartori**.

- Staff Planner: Community Development has posted this position.
- Green Communities Report: **Mr. Cademartori** will share the annual report in advance of the next CEC meeting.

**Gas Leak Legislation:** An introduction to proposed state legislation known as “The Future Act” (Mass. House 2849/Senate 1940) was circulated by **Ms. Wheeler** to CEC members for their review. **Ms. Wheeler** had been contacted by Cape Ann resident Ed Woll who is initiating an effort to get Cape Ann cities and towns to pass a resolution urging the State Legislature to approve this bill. CEC members will review the materials provided and discuss further at our next meeting. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** mentioned that we looked at this in 2017 and that MAPC had a potential grant program (which Gloucester did not receive). **Ms. Brayton** stated that the city did pass a resolution at that time but **Ms. Wheeler** said this is now an expanded resolution request. The Future Act addresses the dual challenge of over-dependence on natural gas, the deteriorating gas distribution system and transitioning to clean renewable energy sources.

**2. Gloucester Community Electricity Aggregation Program update:** **Ms. Brayton** read from John McCarthy’s Facebook page an 11 month summary of power point made of the program progress and participation presented recently by John O’Rourke of Good Energy to the City Council. She commented there did not appear to be any public participation at the meeting. **Ms. Brayton** will post this on Gloucester Green if she can get access. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** will contact John O’Rourke for full 12 month graphic of the program performance.

**3. SolSmart Program:** See Community Development update above.

**4. Potential availability of State funds for Sustainability Coordinator positions in local governments.** \$1.3 billion, bill H.3997. The Massachusetts House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation investing \$1.3 billion to help cities and towns across Massachusetts fund infrastructure projects aimed at fighting climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The legislation establishes a \$1 billion, 10-year grant program - known as GreenWorks - to fund clean energy, energy efficiency, and climate change resiliency measures that cut greenhouse gas emissions, fortify infrastructure and reduce municipal costs. The legislation also invests \$325 million in other municipal green projects, such as funds for municipalities to hire climate adaptation and coastal resiliency planners with \$20 million for sustainability coordinators. The bill is currently in the Senate, being reviewed by the Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

**5. Proposed Amendment to MassDEP Clean Energy Standard:** **Ms. Darby** provided the draft amendment to 310 CMR 7.75-10/4/19 although the comment period has expired. Of note is the change in the Clean Energy Standard for year 2020 from 20% to 22%.

**6. Gloucester Turbine Tour Event:** Offered by Green Energy Consumers Alliance which was held on October 26. **Ms. Brayton** and **Ms. Wheeler** attended along with approx. 150 people that took the tour. John O’Rourke of Good Energy participated, providing information on the Community Electricity Aggregation Program, and electric vehicles were available to drive.

**7. Potential for joint clean energy projects with other Cape Ann communities:** This item has been tabled since no suggestions from Rockport or Manchester have yet been provided.

**Ms. Wheeler** went on to summarize the status of the Climate Crisis Action initiative and the two meetings that had been held in September and October. At the October meeting six groups were

established: Renewables, Efficiency, Carbon Capture/Sequestration, Vision/Policy/Legislation/Incentives/Resilience, Communication/Spiritual Connection/Personal Actions and Community Building/Education. The next meeting of all groups is in December.

**8. CEC Vacancies:** Sam Ziergiebel is in the process for appointment to one of the two open positions on the CEC.

**9.** Continue preparation of update for Mayor and City Council on current CEC Projects. Set guidelines for CEC collaborations with non-profit organizations and programs - **Mr. Moskal** suggests that this be tabled until Community Development has filled the Staff Planner position. CEC annual report is in process.

Although not on the Agenda, members had discussion concerning the Municipal Vulnerability Program progress.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the commission was set for Thursday, December 12, 2019 depending upon **Mr. Cademartori's** availability. **Ms. Wheeler** will confirm.

**Adjournment:** The commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Linda Stout-Saunders