

Gloucester Clean Energy Commission—September 27, 2011

Meeting Summary

Present: Tom Balf, Sam Cleaves, Linda Brayton, Jill Buchanan, Candace Wheeler, Gregg Cademartori and guests Jim Hafey (Facilities Manager), Dave Anderson (Energy Manager/Electrician), Joe George (associate of Richard Kleiman), Bob Hastings (CEO of Gloucester Chamber of Commerce)

Minutes of the last meeting (July 26, 2011) were adopted as corrected. (Page 2, correct spelling of intern who wrote streetlight report is “Dillon Vasillo”; also on Page 2, the generating capacity of the Gloucester Engineering proposal should be corrected. Minutes indicated two 1.65 MW turbines, but Gloucester engineering proposal is for one to two 2 MW turbines.

Bob Hastings—Energy Efficient Lighting for Dog Park

Bob Hastings and Roger Bloom have taken on fund-raising for development of a two-acre dog park located at undeveloped parking lot at Stage Fort Park near Alternative School. Park would be used most heavily between May 15 and Sept. 15 when dogs aren’t allowed on beaches. Goal is a “green” dog park, including solar powered streetlights providing shielded light from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Bob wanted to piggy-back a grant application for solar lighting on any solar proposals the City is submitting. Hopes park would be open by May 15, 2012.

Tom Balf reported that John Moskal did not think a solar grant was likely. Tom suggested another approach via a small wind turbine with battery storage. Gregg noted that there is a local example of success with a renewable energy/battery combination. A Bayview resident can now store 14 days worth of domestic power from solar or geothermal energy in a battery, and is planning to install a turbine. Small turbines can be ordered from Amazon (5’ blade diameter).

Sam suggested that the CEC provide Bob Hastings with a list of wind and solar energy contractors that he could contact relative to the dog park lighting. Tom stated that we would get the list to Bob no later than a month from the September meeting. (Bob’s e-mail: h@capeannchamber.com).

Jim Hafey and Bob Anderson—Clean energy strategy for City Facilities

Tom asked Jim and Dave about their priorities for City facilities maintenance and improvement, and how CEC could facilitate energy conservation and renewables in City facilities.

Jim reported that the main focus so far has been O'Maley roof and ice rink. Jim read the list of several energy management elements in the contract for these projects, including computer power management, vending machine controls, variable-speed drives, demand-control ventilation for Library, gym and auditorium, insulation for rink roof.

Jim and Dave tried to identify the type of work that the City could not do with City staff, and these items were the focus for Green Communities grant funding. "B2Q", the consultants who had done the feasibility studies for work on the schools, helped determine the content of the funding proposals. Jim deals with Sarah Garcia and Steve Winslow relative to the use of Green Communities grant funds. Some improvements under \$100K can be done under the umbrella of National Grid incentive programs that provide refunds to municipalities, and does not require the public construction procurement process.

Jim noted that he needed a Green Communities fund account to be set up so that purchase orders can be charged to it. Gregg said he would follow up on that.

Tom expressed interest in getting solar panels on some City building roofs or grounds. Green Communities (GC) funds would be the main source for such projects, and City cannot apply for additional GC funds until it has spent all of the existing funds awarded last December. By the end of 2011, the O'Maley projects should be complete. Candace will get Jim a list of the types of projects that can be funded with GC grants.

Dave said another possible project is Phase 2 lighting for the High School, once the roof leaks have been fixed by in-house staff. Tom noted that this could be an "ESCO" (Energy Services Contracting) project. Sam said the MAPC's Regional ESCO RFP package was assembled with assistance from Peregrine Consulting, and 5 companies have responded. In a few weeks an ESCO contractor will be selected, and 11 communities, including Gloucester, are interested in doing ESCO projects through this regional program. (CEC's Linda Saunders is on the Regional ESCO Committee, and Gregg brought the 5 RFP responses to the CEC meeting for her to review).

Tom advised that at some point there should be a summit meeting with the City's Chief Financial Officer Jeff Towne, the CEC and the Community Development Dept. about whether to pursue the ESCO. Gregg said Steve Winslow has been the energy person thus far, but a new energy/housing staff person will take that over in the near future. Tom proposed a meeting between Gregg, Steve W. and/or new staff person, Sam, Linda Saunders and Jim Hafey to strategize on ESCO. Tom will check with Linda to get some dates. Sam said that if ESCO proceeds, the first step would be investment-grade audits of municipal buildings to identify possible improvements, then negotiation of contracts for specific ESCO improvements.

Energy conservation projects Jim has worked on include the installation of a white roof on the ice rink to minimize heat absorption, and the addition of another 3” of insulation, so that R-13 classification was achieved. He priced a suspended ceiling with insulation, but put that on hold when prices came in \$20K above expectations. Dehumidification and domestic hot water will be added to the rink, so that hot water will not have to be piped from the Middle School with great heat loss. New boards and lights will also be added to the rink.

In addition to O’Maley and the rink, all the school roofs got more insulation, and new skylights. The old roof insulation was totally waterlogged and had no R-value. Five schools were done via 3 contracts (Plum Cove/Beeman contract; O’Maley contract with rink as an alternate; Veterans/East Gloucester contract; no contracts for Fuller and West Parish Schools, as their futures are still in flux).

Jill suggested that accomplishments like these be publicized in the newspaper and on the CEC website. Jim said he would be willing to talk with the press, and have Mike Hale join in publicity.

As another energy conservation/ efficiency project, Candace asked about the City Hall boiler replacement. All present agreed this would be a good project, and might be suitable for the next round of GC funding. (Gloucester will not be eligible for another round until all the funds from the first GC award are fully spent). Gregg explained that major projects at City Hall and the Police and Fire Stations are all in limbo while the future of the Fuller School building is being studied. Tom reminded Jim that PCB’s in old caulking is likely to be an issue at the Fuller School.

Another energy efficiency success reported by Jim is that Roy Spittle (local electrical contractor) installed new LED street lights on the Boulevard at no cost to the City. Also, various types of efficient bulbs are being tried on Main Street. Tom said that there has been progress on LED light quality in a standard bulb format but it is still very expensive.

The street light study by student intern Dillon Vasillo has been completed and a copy given to Jim, who hopes to speak with Dillon. Joe George urged the CEC to also look into creating a municipal power company that could include state-of-the-art solar, wind and battery storage technology.

Blackburn Project: Gregg Cademartori

Gregg has met with the EDIC (Economic Development & Industrial Commission) about their possible role in developing a City-owned wind turbine on the City’s land in Blackburn Park. EDIC had the Boreal feasibility study on this proposal reviewed by an independent expert, George Baker. Gregg put together a scope of work to have the Boreal study peer-reviewed to examine Boreal’s assumptions. The following consultants will report back to EDIC: Harris/Miller/Miller and Hansen as

prime consultant; Sustainable Energy Advantage to review economic analysis and payback; Laricia (*spelling???*) to review engineering, construction cost.

An outside law-firm specializing in power purchase agreements has been retained by the City Solicitor to assist in review of the Gloucester Engineering proposal in Blackburn Park, and could also advise the City on its own Blackburn project.

Tom recommended that the fragmented discussions by the City Council, EDIC and the CEC on the Blackburn proposals be pulled together at some point soon so we will all be “on the same page”. Sam agreed that coordinating the conversation about proposed projects should be a major CEC goal, especially to be the communicator between Public Works, Council and EDIC. We could also facilitate some special citizen committees.

Jill wondered if an on-line forum could be a vehicle for this dialogue. Tom was not optimistic that people would really use the on-line discussion mode, and Linda Brayton noted that this approach could also conflict with Open Meeting Law constraints on deliberating via e-mail.

Grant and RFP Opportunities

Gregg had e-mailed the CEC a notice of an MAPC group RFP for LED street lights, which could result in very competitive pricing for these fixtures. There will be a roundtable for potential participants at MAPC on Thu., Nov. 3 from 10AM to 12 PM.

Gregg reported that he had met with Jill about a possible grant opportunity. The Gulf of Maine Council wants to examine the risks of climate change, and develop zoning and building code changes to respond to the risks. They want 5 projects in New England, one of which should be in Massachusetts. The grant would be for approximately \$30K, and has a very long time frame. Gregg is not sure that he has the staff time to handle this type of grant, and doesn't have clear authorization to apply for the grant.

However, there is also a Mass. Bays grant for about \$30K that Gregg thinks is a better fit for Gloucester, so he plans to apply for that. The application is due on October 16. Tom offered CEC assistance in reviewing the application. Gregg mentioned that letters of support citing the CEC strategic plan would be helpful.

Jill noted that Dave Standley in Ipswich is interested in regional climate adaptation collaboration, which might fit within the scope of the Gulf of Maine grants.

CEC Report to Mayor and City Council

Tom stated that he would draft the annual report to the Mayor and City Council about CEC's activities and projects, and send copies to the CEC and Gregg.

Outreach/ Publicity

Jill reported that Gloucester Times Reporter Ray Lamont had repeatedly cancelled planned meetings with Jill about getting a series of CEC articles in the newspaper. The CEC members suggested approaching the Beacon newspaper while we are awaiting some attention from the Gloucester Times

Next Meeting

The next CEC meeting will be Tuesday, October 25, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candace Wheeler

Action Items List

- 1) Tom will try to set up a meeting to consider embarking on an ESCO project involving City buildings and facilities. Participants would include Tom, Gregg, Linda Saunders, Sam, Steve Winslow (or new staff person), and City Finance Director Jeff Towne.
- 2) Candace will send Jim Hafey a list of the types of projects that can be funded with Green Communities funds.
- 3) Jill will contact Jim Hafey about publicity on the green accomplishments that have been included in the City's improvements of public buildings and schools.
- 4) Jill will follow through with the Beacon and the Gloucester Times to publicize the work of the CEC and the City on clean energy.
- 5) Tom will set up a phone-call between Jim Hafey and Dillon Vasillo (student intern) about the street light study.
- 6) CEC and Gregg should discuss whether Gloucester should join in a regional RFP for LED street lights.
- 7) Tom will send out the Climate Adaptation Report to CEC members and Gregg.
- 8) Gregg will follow through on the Mass. Bay climate change grant .
- 9) Gregg will coordinate the creation of a Green Communities account that Jim Hafey can charge project purchase orders to.
- 10)CEC will monitor outcome of Planning and Development Subcommittee hearing on Gloucester Engineering project on Oct. 5, and City Council review of the permit application on Oct. 11.
- 11)Sam and Tom will come up with a list of solar and wind contractors for Bob Hastings to contact about street lighting for the Dog Park powered by wind or solar generation hooked to storage batteries.

