

Gloucester Clean Energy Commission

Meeting Summary: October 24, 2013

Approval of Minutes: None; September, 2013 Meeting Minutes to be reviewed for December 12, 2013 Meeting

Present:

Members: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders
 City Staff: Matt Coogan, Sr. Planner-Community Development; Jim Hafey, DPW
 Guests: Susanne Altenburger of Phil Bolger & Friends Inc.
 Joe George of Cool Current Consulting

The meeting was called to order by Candace Wheeler at 7:32 pm

Public Comment: Susanne Altenburger:

Ms. Altenburger's discussion concerned the opportunity for the City to participate in the development of a "Green" Patrol Craft prototype for the US Navy and to further explore Marine-Industrial Economic Development towards sustainable boat-building. The two papers distributed by Ms. Altenburger provide an overview of these concepts. She has in the past also discussed this with Mayor Kirk.

Ms. Altenburger would like the CEC to bring this to the attention of other City commissions. Matt Coogan suggested that the City's Harbor Planning Commission may be the more appropriate party to further explore this opportunity. Linda Brayton suggested the EDIC as a possibility.

Staff and Member Reports/Discussion

Streetlight Update: Matt Coogan has had many discussions with Mike Hale and has been in touch with Steve Weisman of Peregrine Group as a potential consultant. DOER has given preliminary approval to our request to use \$12K of our remaining Green Communities Program funding to pay this consultant. Consultant would assist in review of the condition of existing lights, negotiations with National Grid, and an audit of inventory, in addition to development of a maintenance program and preliminary planning for converting lights to LED lights. Maintenance costs and how the DPW may be burdened are yet to be determined. Matt is following up w/other cities for pros and cons. It is anticipated that acquiring the lights is zero cost to the City. Jim Hafey stated that ongoing maintenance would not be an obligation that the DPW would want to take on but rather that this task should be out-sourced. At present, City has been paying National Grid approximately \$180K annually for maintenance that has been somewhat neglected, **plus** annual electricity costs of approximately \$310K.

Matt has spoken with MAPC for procurement of LED's under their potential Spring 2014 program.

Jim Hafey stated LED lighting experience has been problematic at times i.e. moisture retention and that they are not cheap.

Linda Brayton brought up the issue of Gloucester's existing lighting ordinance, which requires full cut-off shields for any new or replacement lighting. She will seek out and circulate a copy or link of the City's ordinance concerning cutoffs.

DPW update of progress on energy conservation projects using utility incentives and progress in meeting Green Communities 20% energy savings goal: Jim Hafey summarized the following projects:

- Replacement of high school interior and exterior lighting.
- Lighting upgrades at the Library, East Gloucester School, Veterans school, and DPW buildings.
- Beeman School, Plum Cove School, and other miscellaneous City buildings are considerations for next year
- City Hall lighting improved.
- High School and O'Malley School: new energy management control systems replacement and training in process,
- HVAC controls, variable speed drives, dampers and a new air conditioning unit at O'Malley will be starting next week

Matt Coogan stated that the payback for most of these projects is a little over 2 years providing significant savings. Payments are structured under National Grid (N-Grid) 24 month "on-bill" payment plan (so no City borrowing needed). Through N-Grid incentive program, Gloucester got \$1.3 million of lighting upgrades for \$800K, and will also have savings from decreased electricity usage charges going forward. John Moskal advised that the City keep rolling the N-Grid incentive programs over as long as they are available. Incentives are funded by 5% surcharge on electric bills, so we should take advantage of this money.

New National Grid incentive programs come out in December for lighting only.

Jim Hafey said he is working with engineer to replace City Hall boiler, the 2nd oldest on the East Coast, 1948.

Gas Conversions: Grid may or may not pay for gas conversion; Hafey considering converting Legion to gas. Candace pointed out that the High School is on gas, O'Malley on oil (no gas line currently in street), and that we may be able to extend gas to City Hall.

Green Communities Program: discussion concerning the 20% energy use reduction over a 5 year term from the baseline which was fiscal 2009. Matt Coogan will follow up with Joanne Bissetta of Green Communities concerning extension of the baseline period. Candace noted that at last look we thought we had saved 15-16% of baseline usage, but accurate savings figures may have been distorted by abnormally cold winters and "moth-balling" of portions of Fuller School. Linda S. noted that energy savings figures are supposed to be normalized for extreme variations in weather or space-use, and she is willing to meet with Matt to discuss this. Matt Coogan will follow up with Joanne Bissetta of Green Communities normalizing figures and extension of baseline period by one more year.

There will be another round of Green Communities funding in Spring, 2014.

Fuel Efficiency Vehicle Policy: Matt Coogan reported that the policy has now been updated. He is looking at reallocation of Green Community funds for two lithium batteries so emergency vehicles can run lights and electronic media without idling their vehicle engines. Jim noted that 8000 lbs. is threshold for vehicle exemption from fuel-efficiency requirements, and that much of City vehicle fleet exceeds this threshold.

Solarize Program: City not intending to pursue at this time. Matt has asked Elizabeth Youngblood, Solarize Administrator, for information on the amount of volunteer administrative support needed to implement the Solarize Program locally.

CEC Vacancy: Tom Kiely, previous director of sustainability at McKinsey & Company expressed his interest in a letter to the Mayor, October 22, 2013. Candace has met with Tom and the Mayor has requested that we advise of CEC's consideration of Mr. Kiely's candidacy. John Moskal expressed some speculation as to whether Mr. Kiely fully realized that the CEC is focusing on gas line extensions and efficiency and not solely sustainability projects.

Candace has explained this to Mr. Kiely. Linda Brayton suggested that the CEC determine its consideration this evening.

A Motion was made to send a letter to the Mayor recommending our support of the appointment of Mr. Kiely; Motion was seconded, and unanimously approved.

Mass Energy Consumer Alliance (MassEnergy): Linda Brayton briefly summarized her participation at the recent MassEnergy Wind Turbine Event in Gloucester.

Gas Line Extensions: Extension of gas lines to neighborhoods that that don't have gas is being explored. Maps of existing gas service, and engagement with DPU and National Grid will be investigated further by John Moskal.

Other Items:

- Discussion among the members concerning ongoing interest in Solarize Mass Program, Community Aggregation and application for next Green Communities round.
- Community Aggregation of electricity purchase: CEC to update report to Mayor on this. Many potential vendors available. May be of more interest as a way to do city-wide group purchase of "greener" electricity than as a way for residents and businesses to save money. Some concern that there could be public resistance to idea of City getting involved in electricity purchasing for residents and businesses, so CEC feels it is not a high priority use of CEC time/effort.
- Dates for CEC Mtgs.: Due to Thanksgiving, CEC will consolidate November/December meeting; Next meeting scheduled for December 12, 2013. CEC will continue to meet at Pond Road.
- Minutes: Matt will update website; Linda B. and Candace will forward past minutes to Matt.
- Endicott intern: Matt says Tom Daniel approached Endicott Gloucester campus for extra help.
- Annual CEC Report: Candace is working on it.
- Residential/Commercial wind & solar installation bylaws: per John Moskal, residential/commercial wind ordinances are already on the books in Gloucester, as created under the Varian project. The State Bldg. Code and National Electrical Code provide for variances for solar electric installations. Sam Cleaves will look into models for local residential/commercial solar by-laws/ordinances.

Motion to adjourn: 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Stout-Saunders

(These 10/24/13 Meeting Notes were approved by the CEC at their 2/27/14 meeting).

