

Gloucester Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes: 1/25/11
Approved with changes on 2/23/11

December minutes approved as submitted.

Present: Candace Wheeler, Tom Balf, Sam Cleaves, Susan St. Pierre, Linda Brayton, Jill Buchanan

Public Comment: Architect Stephen Moore, from MapLab (marine industrial park in s. boston), has been involved in conversations about I4C2-like projects. They are interested in looking at proposals to identify energy aspects and projects with the best clean energy potential.

Susan St. Pierre reported that she spoke with Boreal- we should have report in a couple of weeks- they will present at February meeting.

Suez- current contract expires spring of 2012. Need to keep an eye on that, because currently, we can only get Green Communities credit on accounts that are not Suez. If we renew the Suez contract, we need language that allows new RFP for an energy supply contract.

Once we have Boreal wind feasibility report, committee will talk to mayor. Then there will be a schedule of tasks for us to roll out in coming years.

We discussed the need for better communication with ward leaders and city councilors. Also, we will communicate more clearly with the mayor early in our decision process. We will revise our communication strategy as we revisit and evolve our strategic plan to make sure this happens.

We were awarded funds the Magnolia Woods Feasibility study, but haven't received the money because abutters had concerns. Budget & Finance Committee put off until beginning of March unless they resolve the issue with them. Susan and Greg will meet with the abutters to discuss concerns. If that doesn't resolve the problem, Susan and Sam will sit in on a B&F committee meeting.

If we do move forward, we will have a public event to raise the wind meteorological (MET) tower.

Flo Design: We entered into a Letter of Intent with them. Didn't stipulate specific requirements, but asked all to do due diligence. Susan and City staff went up and evaluated the site. Mayor will meet with them and dept heads to discuss. FloDesign has to get special permit from city council after feasibility study is completed. They will evaluate all moving pieces, and they need a pre-application meeting with the City at the end of February- Someone from CEC will also attend that meeting.

Tom had conference call with FloDesign partner Alf from Raytheon, and also CEO and COO of FloDesign. New Technology: water-based turbine. Alf pushing to move quickly on this. Their timeline: validation of basic performance in lab this summer- new technology. Prototyping it next summer, testing it in NH in Pissataqua River with UNH. Benefit: develop relationship with university long-term.

Next Meeting February 23.

AI: Susan to investigate with city staff whether it is possible to have all I4C2 projects include energy (LEED?) – related criteria receive favorable consideration.

AI: Tom and Candace and Linda will follow up on developing a 3-5 year- strategic plan: Goals, framework. They will present at next meeting

AI: Susan will find out if there's a drop-dead deadline on the grant for the Magnolia Woods project.

AI: Susan to reach out to Ntl Grid to let them know about our application for the FloDesign project- to find out the incentives for the plan if we were to submit it as a Ntl Grid project.

AI: Tom will follow up with notes regarding water-based turbine.