

CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 28, 2016
(Approved at meeting of 10/27/16)

Members present: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Tom Kiely, John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders. **Staff:** Matt Coogan. **Guests:** Dan Bianchi, Global Partners LP; **Public:** Edward Hand and Tom Mikus, members of the Rockport Green Community Task Force; Suzanne Altenburger, Phil Bolger & Friends Inc; Dick Prouty and Tim Greiner, TownGreen 2025 Steering Committee

The meeting was called to order by Wheeler at 7:35pm at City Hall, 3rd floor conference room. The minutes for February 25 and March 24, 2016 were not available for vote.

Public Comment:

- Rockport Green Community Task Force reported on the status of their Green Communities designation.
- Suzanne Altenburger (presented after Meeting adjourned): Introduced technology with the potential of harnessing our area wind power for the production of hydrogen to ultimately be used for load balancing in the energy grid. Altenburger distributed a white paper “Power to gas” which can be viewed at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_to_gas and “Is a hydrogen internal combustion engine in our future” and at www.motivemag.com/pub/feature/tech/HICE_HICE_BABY.

Altenburger continued her report on Green Boat technology and handed out a report from April 5, 2016 “Green Boats and Ports III from the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System which can be viewed at www.unols.org/event/meeting/green-boats-and-ports-iii and EPOXYWORKS publication # 42, Spring 2016, Topic “Gadabout”, pg. 22, which can be retrieved at www.epoxyworks.com for back issues and specific topics.

Guest Presentation:

RE: Community Choice Aggregation (“CCA”) presentation by Dan Bianchi, Regional Sales & Marketing Director, Global Partners LP, Pittsfield, MA requesting that we consider their services to support a CCA program for the City.

Global owns, controls or has access to one of the largest terminal networks of petroleum products and renewable fuels in the Northeast. Global is one of the largest distributors of gasoline, distillates, residual oil and renewable fuels to wholesalers, retailers and commercial customers in New England and New York. Roses Oil Terminal here in Gloucester is one of their facilities. Global has a joint venture with Colonial Power Group, Inc. (CPG) an independent energy consulting company that specializes in helping local municipalities to create and manage electric municipal aggregation programs. They have approximately 40 municipalities enrolled under the CCA program, the City of Lowell being one of the largest. (The CEC has also received a similar written request from Bay State Consultants/Peregrine Energy Group which has implemented CCA for other communities.)

Gloucester has been reviewing the CCA program under the guidelines of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council RFP; and specifically, the preferred provider chosen by MAPC, Good Energy Group. Matt explained that the CEC recommendations to the Mayor were based upon the MAPC guidelines and that our City Council voted unanimously to move forward with further research and assessment of a CCA program by the Planning & Development Committee (City Council Mtg. April 12, 2016). The P&D Committee meeting (April 20, 2016) included a presentation by MAPC explaining the CCA program, the MAPC vetting process and the merits of choosing Good Energy. The P&D Committee voted to recommend that the City Council authorize the development of a CCA program and that the overall matter of development thereof will be continued to May 4. Coogan agreed to advise the Administration that we have been approached by a CCA competitor.

Staff and Member Reports/Updates Discussions

1. CEC member vacancy due to resignation of Sam Cleaves. Wheeler discussed with Paul McGeary who has expressed an interest.
2. Next steps on proposal to pursue electric supply on behalf of Gloucester citizens/business: ongoing review with Planning & Development.

3. Proposal by TownGreen 2025 Steering Committee project to promote Mass Save home energy efficiency audits: TownGreen has proposed that the City and TownGreen join forces to promote energy efficiency opportunities of the Mass Save program to Gloucester citizens and businesses. Tim Greiner mentioned that Mass Save has indicated their willingness to meet with the City and get behind such efforts. Incentives under the Mass Save program include rebates and loan programs for measures that include appliances, HVAC, building envelope. Suggested City marketing efforts would be Mass Save promotional material stuffers in City real estate tax/water/sewer bills and posting on the City's website. Other suggestions include a National Grid mailer to City residents and publication in the Gloucester Daily Times. Wheeler mentioned that the CEC has considered similar proposals from firms such as Next Step Living and Home Works.

The CEC voted to explore whether the City would be comfortable to utilize its communications resources to advocate for the Mass Save Program. Moskal will draft a memo to the Mayor recommending that the City explore using its communication channels to assist organizations such as TownGreen 2025 to encourage residents and small businesses to take advantage of free services through the Mass Save program in order to reduce their energy bills and overall carbon footprint.

4. Status of Net Metering and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC's): MA Legislature has recently passed a bill raising the cap on net metering. The Department of Energy Resources announced that the SREC II program would be extended until such time as a SREC III program is put in place although these are not expected to be as generous as SREC II.
5. Streetlight project: Coogan reported approximately 500 lights completed and overall comment is that the quality is good.
6. CEC Strategic Plan: Kiley reported that the plan is not yet complete. CEC agreed to follow up at our May Meeting.
7. **New Business:**
 - Solar farm sites mentioned by Dick Prouty. Location, tax benefits, offtaker, investor/developer relations among the items to be considered. Prouty will discuss further with Moskal.
 - Collaboration with other Cape Ann communities such as solar projects and energy aggregation to be explored further.

Ongoing and New Items:

Draft Memo to Mayor re TownGreen 2025/Mass Save: Moskal; forward to Coogan for review

Redraft Strategic Plan – Kiely

Gas Leak Follow-up with DPW – Coogan/Brayton

Research Social Media Outreach by other Municipalities: follow up at end of year – Myers

Continue to explore options for Solar Siting – Moskal with Dick Prouty

Zoning By-laws for ground-mounted solar projects –Coogan

Develop City Inventory of owned/rented properties – Coogan's Intern

CCA Program – ongoing review with P&D Committee

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2016, 7:30pm, Pond Rd. Annex Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders