

MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING
January 25, 2018
City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Dale Avenue
(Approved at the meeting of 3/22/18)

Members Present: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Paul McGeary (by phone), and Linda Stout-Saunders

Guests: Ellen Leaman and Fern Miller of 350.Org

Public: Jennifer Holmgren City Councilor-at-Large; Mike Nolan

The meeting was called to order by **Ms. Wheeler** at 7:45 pm.

Roll Call Vote: **Mr. McGeary** joined the meeting by telephone. All members present verbally consented. Further actions throughout this meeting that required a vote were conducted by a formal Roll Call vote.

Approval of Minutes: December 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: **Mr. Nolan** joined the meeting to express his interest in filling one of two vacancies recently created by the departure of Messrs. Myers and Kiley; and in response to an invitation extended to him in December 2017 by **Ms. Wheeler**. **Mr. Nolan** provided details of his background; his full resume had been previously submitted to **Ms. Wheeler**. It was unanimously voted that the CEC recommend **Mr. Nolan** to the Mayor and that he send a formal letter of interest along with his resume to the Mayor.

In summary: **Mike** joined Enovation Partners in 2014. He brings 10+ years of experience supporting utility, power, and technology companies. Prior to Enovation his professional experience was with Siemens Industry Inc. living in Germany (Distributed Generation and Smart Grid Business Units). **Mike's** focuses on applied data analytics for customer-tailored solutions involving distributed energy resource (DER) assessment, commercialization, and market growth. He has supported clients to develop and implement analytics-driven solutions leveraging energy storage, energy efficiency, demand response, advanced metering infrastructure, and fuel cells. His expertise includes financial and regulatory analysis and market intelligence in de-regulated markets. **Mike** discussed with his firm whether any conflict of interest his CEC membership might cause; none are foreseen at this time. **Mike's** spouse, Carol Healy, has a background in sustainability (most recently with McDonald's Corp.) and is a member of the Sawyer Free Library Building Committee. **Ms. Wheeler** briefly outlined the CEC's projected plans for this year to be included in our Strategic Plan.

1. CEC Vacancies:

Ms. Wheeler: In addition to **Mr. Nolan**, Debra Darby of Organix Solutions wrote expressing her interest in joining the CEC. Her background includes providing cost-effective and sustainable collection and processing solutions that recover organic waste and recycling. (She made a presentation to the CEC October 2016). **Ms. Brayton** commented that Ms. Darby's background may be more suited for the Clean City Commission that also has at least one opening.

Ms. Brayton mentioned that the Mayor's Inaugural Address on 1/1/18 included the subject of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. With that in mind, she suggested that we contact Kathryn Glenn who works in Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management as a potential member of the CEC. **Mr. McGeary** will give her a call.

Ms. Stout-Saunders inquired how one is made aware of vacancies in general. **Ms. Wheeler** stated that **Messrs. Kiely** and **Myer** sent resignation letters to the Mayor. **Mr. McGeary** stated that there is no heavy recruitment; Commission members encourage people on their own and may make recommendations to the Mayor who makes the final decision.

2. Guests: 350.Org.

Ms. Leaman (who met with the CEC last year) pointed out that methane gas increases sea level rise more than anything else, in a temporary way, i.e. warms the water, the immediate culprit in addition to carbon dioxide. **350.Org** is collaborating with Mother's Out Front and their efforts to identify better methods to find and eliminate gas leaks, advocate for 100% Renewable community efforts and a carbon and pipeline tax. Also noted was a recent screening from Greenbelt of "Tomorrow" that encourages local communities around the world to change the way they live. **Ms. Wheeler** suggested that we should inquire if this film may be available for local screening at the Cape Ann Cinema.

350.Org is supporting the movement toward retirement plan divestment of companies that own reserves in fossil fuels (recently passed in New York City). The Massachusetts Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT) has some similar proposed bills. **Mr. McGeary** noted specifics of the City's PRIT should be addressed with Doug Macarthur, Head of the Gloucester Municipal Retirement Commission; **Ms. Holmgren** said she would look into this. **350.Org** website details a "Fossil Free" campaign where one can determine the costs/benefits of switching from fossil fuel use. **Ms. Wheeler** noted that Tim Greiner through TownGreen 2025 developed a homeowner case study on energy efficiency and renewable energy, including a template for homeowners to calculate a home's CO2 production, which can be viewed at their website.

Carbon tax: **Ms. Leaman** mentioned a resolution passed in Northampton supporting carbon pricing. **Ms. Wheeler** commented that due the complexity of this matter the CEC will hold off pursuing with City Council. It was suggested that **350.org** contact TownGreen 2025 for further discussion. It was noted that the City Council did pass a gas leak resolution.

100% Renewable Energy: **Ms. Leaman** asked whether the City Council might support 100% Renewable Energy. **Ms. Holmgren** said that she received a request from Environment Massachusetts requesting that Senator Tarr and the Mayor write an op-ed in support of 100% Renewable Energy and that she would follow up with the Mayor. She will also discuss with Councilor Gilman a possible City Council resolution. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** mentioned that Environment Mass and the City of Cambridge have some sample non-binding resolutions for 100% Renewable Energy policies.

Member Reports/Updates/Discussions:

Lobby Meeting with Senator Tarr, January 11, 2018, arranged by Meghan Hassett of Environment Mass attended by **Ms. Brayton, Stout-Saunders, and Holmgren** along with some individuals from “350 Mass For a Better Future”, Ipswich chapter. The meeting agenda was specific to Environment Mass’ 100% Renewable Vision & Campaign but due to a scheduling conflict was not addressed in its entirety. **Ms. Brayton** summarized the meeting:

Sen. Tarr’s two primary issues are climate and energy reliability. He said that what “keeps him awake at night” is the need for new, reliable suppliers to replace what is going offline and being shut down. Sen. Tarr was quite interested in the Reforestation of the Tropics after discussion he had with Harry Hintlian at the December Environment Mass/Salem State 100% Renewable Energy symposium and speculated that this technology for reducing carbon could be supported by floating of a State bond. **Ms. Wheeler** suggested that Mr. Hintlian do a presentation for the CEC. Sen. Tarr discussed the pending “Pacheco Bill for climate change” as his primary focus which includes among many initiatives, a lifting the net metering cap and an increase in the renewable portfolio standard. Concerning offshore wind, Sen. Tarr believes Gloucester would be a good staging site for projects. **Ms. Wheeler** recalled that **Mr. Moskal** had mentioned the depth of the harbor could be a problem. Sen. Tarr said it would be “a real sprint” to get anything done by the end of the current Legislative Session (June 2018).

SolSmart Resources Brown Bag workshop held by The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) on January 23 attended by **Ms. Stout-Saunders** and **Ms. Wheeler**. A national program funded by the US Dept. of Energy Sun Shot Initiative to encourage communities to become solar friendly by addressing solar soft costs such as permitting, zoning, and administration, which represent approximately 64% of a project's costs. SolSmart is an initiative that the CEC agreed in December to pursue based upon Mr. Coogan’s recommendation. MAPC outlined the basic program designation requirements, application process and timeline. Once eligible, Communities can apply to receive six months of no-cost Technical Assistance (TA) toward achieving designation. Meister Consultants Group is a TA provider. The program has been piloted in seven local communities. The idea of collaborating regionally with North Shore communities was discussed. Beverly, in attendance at the workshop (as was Ipswich), has made some significant progress addressing solar ordinance concerns.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program: The City applied to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program and was awarded a technical assistance grant to further the discussion of potential climate change impacts and building community resilience. The grant award was made with the specific intent of funding consulting assistance to aid the process. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** participated in the final selection process for the two firms, MAPC and Meister Consultants, chosen by Community Development in response to an RFP. Once formally awarded, the next step will be to put together a working group to guide the effort which will culminate in a 30+/- stakeholder group and one or two workshops. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** stated that she had recommended Katie Kahl as a possible candidate for the stakeholder team. Ms. Kahl is with UMass Amherst's School of Earth & Sustainability at the Gloucester Marine Station. Ms. Holmgren mentioned that she had recently met Ms. Kahl and will give her a call.

Solar: **Ms. Stout-Saunders** noted a recent podcast presentation made by Tim Sanborn of Cazeault Solar on Good Morning Gloucester outlining the benefits of solar. Additional presentations are being scheduled including one on solar installation incentives.

3. Community Development Dept. Following Matt Coogan's departure, CEC has reached out to the city planning director Gregg Cademartori to determine when Mr. Coogan's responsibilities as they related to the CEC will be assigned. Mr. Cademartori is aware of the Green Communities grant program and stated that the March grant round will not be applied for since we are still implementing work from the previous grant; Municipal Aggregation will be reviewed with Good Energy in March; National Grid home audit program is in review; and a Cape Ann Chamber initiative with Chamber for Innovations, a program similar to Mass Save but for small businesses, that will be ramping up next month. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** will draft up a list of all initiatives we believe need ongoing support.

4. CEC Strategic Plan: Last approved June 2016 for fiscal 2017 so we are now writing our Plan for fiscal 2019. **Mr. McGeary** recommends that we work off our existing plan. **Ms. Wheeler** pointed out that certain commitments such as Municipal Aggregation, National Grid, and Green Communities are already on the existing plan. Other considerations **Ms. Stout-Saunders** mentioned: the Sawyer Free Library Building Committee, Electric Vehicles, Energy Storage, Community Solar, SolSmart, the upcoming SMART program (replacing the SREC program) (estimate early Summer) , and commitment to 100% Renewable Energy as new items to be included.

Mr. McGeary suggested that Municipal Aggregation should be # 1 unless it doesn't kick in due to pricing. His top four priorities are: 1. Aggregation, 2. Solar, 3. 100% Renewable Energy/Carbon Neutrality, 4. Mass Save/National Grid program. Suggest we create tiers under each sector for different criteria.

Ms. Brayton pointed out that the Mass Forward 100% Renewable Energy initiative, which the CEC approved to pursue in December, is a good structure to follow. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** suggests that we use the Mass Forward Local Clean energy checklist as a guideline. **Ms. Wheeler** suggested that some initiatives such as Mass Save/National Grid could be taken over entirely by Community Development and/or TownGreen. CEC will continue discussing the Strategic Plan in next month's meeting.

- **Mr. McGeary** signed off from the meeting at 9:10PM; all members acknowledged/approved by motion.

5. Community Solar and Solar Ordinance: **Mr. McGeary** sent out updated versions of draft letters from the CEC to the City Council and the Mayor concerning proposed zoning changes for solar systems. **Ms. Wheeler** suggested that we add reference to the SolSmart Program offered through the MAPC and the technical assistance available. She will follow up with **Mr. McGeary**. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** will follow up with Beverly for input on their solar ordinance draft.

6. National Grid Community Initiative: next teleconference is scheduled for February 13th. Kick-off for the 2018 program will be in March. Expenditure of award earned under the 2017 program to be decided. Ideas include: electric vehicle charging station(s); and/or contributing towards an education initiative such as "Change is Simple" as suggested by **Mr. Coogan** in December (**Ms. Stout-Saunders** reviewed the Change is Simple program and it appears some Gloucester schools participate and that there are various tiers under which donations can be made.); and/or TownGreen's school curriculum program which **Ms. Wheeler** will check with **Dick Prouty** about.

7. New Business: **Ms. Brayton** explained that Action Inc. may be starting two new pilot programs that are aimed at reducing housing costs for Cape Ann residents: (1) a six-month weatherization trial program focusing on clients who are low income according to the federal government's housing guidelines but who have historically been considered "over income" for weatherization (clients with incomes between 60% + \$1 and 80% of area median income). The trial will target a limited geographic area to effectively test the program model and delivery for this specific demographic; and (2) Action Inc. has received some grant funding from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to install whole-house air source heat pump retrofits combined with rooftop solar panels for a limited number of qualifying homes in the area. In both instances, Action Inc. will be managing system-wide in cooperation with MASSCAP and LEAN (Massachusetts Association for Community Action /Low-Income Energy Affordability Network).

- Meeting adjourned 9:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Stout-Saunders