

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Gloucester Clean Energy Commission**

**Thursday, July 25, 2019**

**Dale Avenue, City Hall, 3rd floor conference room)**

**(Approved at meeting of 8/28/19)**

**Attending:** Commissioners Candace Wheeler, chair, Paul McGeary, vice-chair, Linda Brayton, Debra Darby, Linda Stout-Saunders.

### **Approval of the minutes**

On a motion by **Ms. Stout-Saunders**, seconded by **Ms. Brayton**, the minutes of the commission meeting of June 18, 2019, were unanimously approved.

### **Member reports on conferences, meetings, etc.**

**Ms. Wheeler** reported that she had been contacted by Jerry Oppenheim, a member of the city's Economic Development and Industrial Corporation and noted that members of the commission were invited to participate as contributors to the corporation's blog. Ms. Stout-Saunders agreed to work on some ideas with Ms. Wheeler and she suggested topics including doing a case study on the performance of the city's two wind turbines at Blackburn Park, increasing awareness of various energy efficiency and cost-saving programs available to businesses, including energy audits and renewable energy opportunities.

**Ms. Brayton** noted that it would be well for commissioners to seek guidance from Community Development staff and possibly further clarification from the city attorney as to how they might participate in such an effort. She pointed out that should any commissioner wish to write a blog, or take any other actions in which the Clean Energy Commission and thus the City of Gloucester is represented that, at the least, there should be a vote of approval by the Commission first. If members wish to act as individuals only they would in most cases be free to do so. She said that this would be a good topic to suggest for any future meetings or trainings to be held by the City Administration for Boards, Commissions and Committees. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** agreed to contact Greg Cadamatori for guidance.

**Ms. Wheeler** also reported that she was helping to facilitate exchange of information between the Rockport Green Community Task Force and Gloucester concerning how to go about installing energy efficient street lighting. The Community Development Department agreed to provide copies of the contracts that Gloucester signed to implement our LED street lighting program.

**Mr. McGeary** reported on the solar energy project at St. John's Episcopal Church in Gloucester. He noted that the church's July electric bill was \$192.18 as compared with \$644.92 for the same period in 2018. He said St. John's two solar arrays had generated 1,438 kilowatt-hours of electricity since going online in May.

**Ms. Darby** reported on a workshop on parliamentary procedure that she had attended and offered to circulate course materials to the other members of the commission.

**Ms. Brayton** reported on recent clean energy, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation efforts passed by the state Legislature. She cited a report by State Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante of \$1.3 billion in Greenworks investment legislation.

### **Staff and Member Reports /Updates/Discussions**

#### **Vacancies on the commission**

**Ms. Wheeler** reported that commissioner **Michael Nolan** had resigned, and **Mr. McGeary** reported that he would be resigning after the August meeting of the commission as he and his wife are moving to California. She asked commissioners to recommend possible candidates to fill the vacancies.

She also noted that a new senior planner, **Greg Jones**, had been hired by the Community Development Dept. and that he would be the department's liaison with the commission.

### **CEC Strategic Plan**

Members reviewed the draft of the Commission's strategic plan that had been circulated prior to the meeting. A number of changes were suggested for the draft plan. A number of editorial and organizational suggestions were made. **Ms. Wheeler and Ms. Brayton** were tasked by the commission with incorporating the suggestions into a final draft to be voted at the commission's next meeting.

### **Working with the City Council and the Administration**

The commissioners discussed acting in partnership with outside agencies and entities.

**Ms. Brayton** reported that she had learned (from City Councilor-at-Large Jen Holmgren) that the Big Roof Solar promotional materials that the CEC and others had received from Susan Hoague, Town Green 2025, and Madeline Barr, Resonant Energy, via email had also been sent under separate cover to City Administration officials and all City Council members. After reviewing the packet, the city's Chief Administrative Officer, **Jim Destino**, had said that any formal engagement with outside entities would have to pass through a formal request-for-proposals process to ensure that state procurement and conflict-of-interest laws were met.

**Ms. Wheeler** raised the question of joining forces with TownGreen 2025 on the Gloucester Big Roof Solar Initiative in light of Mr. Destino's guidance.

The matter was deferred pending approval of the commission minutes of May 23, at which the matter was discussed and language offered for a way of engaging with TownGreen and its parent, the Gloucester Meetinghouse Foundation.

### **Turbine tour**

On a motion by **Mr. McGeary**, seconded by **Ms. Brayton**, the commission voted unanimously to recommend a proposal from Green Energy Consumers Alliance (formerly MassEnergy) for a tour of Gloucester's turbines in October and to encourage CEC members to participate in this event as we have done in the past. Participation should not be a problem. **Ms. Brayton** noted, as there was no co-sponsorship involved, and the turbines are part of a City initiative.

### **Climate Crisis Forum**

On a motion by **Mr. McGeary**, seconded by **Ms. Brayton**, the commission voted to accept an invitation to participate in Cape Ann Climate Crisis Forum on Sept. 25.

### **Next meeting**

The commission voted to hold its next meeting on **Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 7 p.m. at City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted  
Paul McGeary, vice-chair.