

**MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING (“CEC”)  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2019  
CITY HALL, 9 DALE AVENUE, 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
(Approved at meeting of 11/20/19)**

**Members Present:** Linda Brayton, John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders, Candace Wheeler

**Members Absent:** Debra Darby

**Staff:** Community Development Planner Greg Jones was not able to attend but provided an update by email correspondence to Ms. Wheeler. See Item 1 one below.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Minutes of the August 28, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Member Reports:**

- **Ms. Wheeler** summarized the Cape Ann Climate Crisis meeting held on September 24, 2019 by TownGreen 2025. The meeting was facilitated by Jane Panicucci, the principal of Active Learning Group. There were approximately 100 participants. There will be a follow up meeting at the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church on Middle Street on Wednesday, October 23, from 7-9PM. More information on the follow up will be posted on a dedicated web page on the TownGreen2025 site.
- **Ms. Stout-Saunders** reported that she attend the Community Development Open Spaces and Recreation Committee meeting of August 29, 2019.

**Members Updates and Discussions:**

1. **Mr. Jones** reported that a draft of the Solar Systems Ordinance for the Commission has been prepared but is still being coordinated with MAPC/CADMUS and Community Development. He plans to have this available for distribution early next week. He also reported that the City anticipates obtaining the Silver SolSmart Designation by October 3, 2019.
2. **CEC Strategic Plan:** After Members agreed to retain the last item under Goal 4 Tasks - “Review and evaluate legislative and funding opportunities as they arise in order to support Goals 1-4”, the Strategic Plan was unanimously approved and will be incorporated into the body of these Minutes as an appendix.\* Ms. Brayton will post the Strategic Plan on the CEC’s web page as a separate link.
3. **CEC City of Gloucester Ordinance, Division 13- Clean Energy Commission, Sec. 2.542-through 2.544:** CEC Members have been reviewing and discussing proposing changes to our mandate to clarify our roles in programs for residential, commercial, and public-private partnerships, specifically Sec. 2-543 – Duties Item # 7. **Ms. Brayton** and **Mr. Moskal** pointed out that it is the CEC’s role to make recommendations to the city of strategies and clean energy opportunities as they arise and that the Duties as outlined in the Ordinance give us sufficient latitude to do so, including addressing any residential, commercial, and public-private partnerships that the CEC may deem of merit and consideration to further to support the city’s clean energy goals. It was unanimously agreed that no changes to the CEC Ordinance will be proposed.

4. **TownGreen 2025:** no representative from TownGreen was in attendance. Updates are anticipated at next month's CEC meeting.

5. **Gloucester Wind Turbine Tour:** Green Energy Consumer Alliances (aka Mass Energy) and Equity Industrial Partners will be holding a public tour of the turbines on October 26, 2019 from 10am to 1 pm. **Greg Cademartori** and/or **Jill Cahill** of Community Development may speak at this event. Members from the CEC are encouraged to attend.

6. **Status of PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy):** **Ms. Stout-Saunders** stated that the program Guidelines are still being drafted by Massachusetts Development who are intending to have a full launch of the program early 2020.

7. **CEC Member Vacancies:** The CEC is seeking two new members due the resignations of Michael Nolan and Paul McGeary. It was suggested that we review the list of attendees of the Cape Ann Climate Crisis Action meeting as a source of potential candidates.

8. **Preparation of report to the Mayor and City Council:** **Ms. Brayton** and **Ms. Wheeler** have been drafting an annual report that will consist of initiatives and completed projects that the CEC has been working on over the past five years.

**Other Action Items Discussed:**

- **Ms. Brayton** said that it was her understanding that staff from Clerk's Office, Legal, IT and others are reviewing online policies and practices related to all Boards, Commissions and Committees.
- **Ms. Wheeler** mentioned that the DPW Director for Rockport is interested in floating solar.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the commission was set for Thursday, October 24, 2019.

**Adjournment:** The commission unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders

**\*As referred to in Item 2 above, CEC Strategy and Goals for Fiscal Years 2020 through 2022 are incorporated herein. See below.** Also Ms. Brayton will post a link to the "Strategy and Goals document on the CEC page of the City's website.

# Gloucester Clean Energy Commission (CEC)

## Strategy and Goals for Fiscal Years 2020 through 2022

Established in 2009, the CEC's work includes municipal achievements measured against Green Community goals set forth in the Green Communities Act of 2008; climate change and coastal resilience; the transitioning to cleaner energy sources and greater energy efficiency; and increasing awareness of viable opportunities. Led by the City Administration, including the departments of Community Development, Public Works and Inspectional Services, many of these activities are now fully integrated into municipal operations and benefit the community as a whole. (See attached CEC ordinance, Section 2-543, Duties.)

**During the next 3 years, the CEC will augment City efforts by focusing on the following goals:**

- 1) Energy Conservation/ Energy Efficiency**
- 2) Renewable Energy/Alternatives to Fossil Fuel**
- 3) Climate Change Resiliency/ Mitigation and Adaptation**
- 4) Community Outreach and Education**

<b>GOAL 1: Energy Conservation/Energy Efficiency</b>	
Tasks	Priority / Projected Date
Work with city departments--particularly the Department of Public Works and Community Development - to expand Gloucester's access to and use of Green Communities funds and other grant programs as well as legislative opportunities to increase energy efficiency.	High/Ongoing
Continue to assist in the MassSave/Gloucester Green challenge to encourage homeowners to complete energy audits and adopt energy-saving strategies and practices.	Medium/Ongoing
Participate in planning as needed to ensure that the renovation of the Sawyer Free Library meets the highest standards for energy efficiency.	Medium/Ongoing
Work to help implement electrical Demand Response conservation measures for municipal users at times of peak usage (peak shaving program.)	Medium/Ongoing
In conjunction with City staff, use performance analytics and data to influence the broader community engagement in energy efficiency, stimulate new ideas and innovation, and seek innovations that could be usefully scaled.	Medium/Ongoing
Monitor potential for implementing CPACE (Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy financing) for energy improvements for businesses.	Low/Ongoing

<b>GOAL 2: Renewable Energy/Alternatives to Fossil Fuel.</b>	
Tasks	Priority / Projected Date

Using resources from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the SolSmart program, assist the City in developing a solar ordinance to encourage generation of electric power by solar energy.	High/FY2020
Work with Good Energy LLC to continue to implement and expand energy aggregation programs for residential energy users.	High/Ongoing
Explore potential for community solar initiatives including assessing the impact of the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program's caps on development of community solar, monitoring opportunities and conducting public education on solar energy.	Low/ after solar ordinance passes
Study the use of energy storage devices (batteries and fuel cells) in municipal buildings and infrastructure (micro-grids) in light of Gloucester's particular vulnerability, including possible isolation, due to extreme weather conditions, sea level rise, and other disasters.	High/Ongoing.
Explore the feasibility of electrically-powered school buses.	Low/Ongoing

### **GOAL 3: Climate Change Resiliency/ Mitigation and Adaptation**

Tasks	Priority / Projected Date
Participate in Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) and other Resiliency Planning projects.	Medium/Ongoing
Monitor efforts and current legislation promoting reforestation, particularly in the tropics as a method of sequestering atmospheric carbon dioxide.	Low/Ongoing

### **GOAL 4: Community Outreach and Education**

Tasks	Priority / Projected Date
Network with City boards, commissions, committees and community/economic development corporations, non-profits and other organizations as appropriate to encourage energy efficiency and clean energy.	Medium/ongoing.
Improve the CEC web site to make it more informative for citizens and easier to navigate and enhance our social media presence.	Medium/Ongoing
Review and evaluate legislative and funding opportunities as they arise in order to support Goals 1 - 4.	Medium/Ongoing

#### 2019 COMMISSION MEMBERS

Candace Wheeler, Chair

Debra Darby

Paul McGeary, Vice Chair

John Moskal

Linda Brayton

Linda Stout-Saunders

## CODE OF ORDINANCES

### DIVISION 13. - CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION

#### Sec. 2-542. - Created.

The city clean energy commission is created to promote clean energy options in the city, including energy efficiency, conservation and the development of clean and renewable energy.

(Ord. of 5-19-2009, § 2-514)

#### Sec. 2-543. - Duties.

The commission shall pursue the following tasks:

- (1) Propose and develop strategies to reduce energy costs of city-owned facilities and vehicles through energy conservation, efficiency and renewable energy measures. The strategies may include electricity, vehicle fuel, natural gas and oil conservation and may identify innovative cost-saving measures.
- (2) Recommend citywide programs including participation in federal or statewide energy initiatives, such as the green communities program, to promote and facilitate smart energy strategies for city citizens on both public and private real property.
- (3) Work with appropriate city departments to track energy usage and costs associated with key assets and operations of the city.
- (4) Identify climate adaptation and mitigation issues and strategies to safeguard the long term economic and cultural vitality of the city.
- (5) Follow emerging federal and state mandates, as well as initiatives and funding opportunities for energy conservation, renewable energy, or climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Recommend strategies to comply with applicable mandatory or voluntary standards.
- (6) Provide guidance, in the form of education or information, to the mayor, city council and key city departments and personnel, to support their decision-making on recommended strategies and clean energy opportunities.
- (7) Serve as a communications and information resource on clean energy issues and city initiatives for the public through:
  - a. Meetings and sponsored events;
  - b. Maintenance of an active web site;
  - c. Regular communications to interested parties; and
  - d. Public/private partnerships.

(Ord. of 5-19-2009, § 2-515)

Sec. 2-544. - Membership.

- (a) The commission shall consist of seven members. Members shall be appointed by the mayor and approved by the city council, subject to the provisions of the city Charter. Appointees shall serve staggered terms of two years beginning at the date of appointment and ending on February 14 as required by the city Charter. Commission members shall be city residents and may include representation by appropriate city employees as determined by the mayor. Members will be selected based on relevant experience and knowledge in energy management strategies, renewable and alternate energies, energy efficiency and/or community sustainability. A vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment.
- (b) The terms of the members shall be staggered, as such, the initial members shall be for the following terms:
  - (1) Three members for one year;
  - (2) Four members for two years.
- (c) The commission shall:
  - (1) Meet on a monthly basis and retain meeting minutes;
  - (2) Report to the mayor on a quarterly basis; and
  - (3) Beginning six months after its initial formation, the commission shall submit to the council on a semiannual basis a report of its activities and its progress in achieving its mission.

(Ord. of 5-19-2009, § 2-516)