

MINUTES OF CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
March 31, 2021, 5:00 PM
Remote Meeting
(Approved at meeting of October 14, 2021)

This meeting was conducted remotely through ZOOM. All votes were conducted by roll call.

A full recording of this meeting is available at: <http://www.gloucester-ma.gov/1145/March-2021-Past-Meetings>

Members Present: Linda Brayton, Debra Darby, John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders, Candace Wheeler, Sam Ziergiebel

Staff: Gregg Cademartori, Community Development

Guests: Good Energy Representatives: Stefano Loretto, Daria Mark, John O'Rourke

Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 27, 2019, January 23, 2020, and March 10, 2021, to be reviewed at next CEC meeting.

Community Electricity Aggregation: Ms. Wheeler introduced the representatives from Good Energy, Gloucester's aggregation consultant. Gloucester's three-year community electric aggregation contract expires December 2021.

Mr. Loretto went over the performance of the program since its inception December 2018. He noted that although only 1% of participants (100 households) opted for a 100% renewable adder (aka Premium Local Green) that they account for 10% of the total renewable energy under the program.

Although the program does not guaranty savings it does guaranty rate stability.

Discussed pros and cons of increasing the standard of 5% renewable adder to 10-15% to make a more significant renewable impact. Based upon Good Energy's experience, an increase can trigger more individuals opting out the program (even though a 0% option is available) in which case Good Energy cannot contact the participant again.

Mr. Moskal suggested that an outreach program should be initiated prior to commencement of the renewed contract to better educate the public on the merits of the program.

Public Comment: Amanda Nash commented that she would like to see the default option increased and get a better understanding of resident concerns and motivations.

A Group procurement with other communities is not recommended at this time due to minimal benefits, the lengthy process, and timing. Something to keep in mind, however, for future renewals.

Timeline: Update the City Council; anticipate a bid date during May/June since market is currently favorable. Once successful bid is in place, strategize a launch plan and outreach materials for November/December 2021.

Current program participants will automatically be transferred to the new program commencing during December 2021 based on their current participation. No opt out letter/card is necessary, but program participation remains voluntary.

A City Council vote will not be required since authorization was given to the Mayor at the time of original approval by the Council, including any changes. Only an endorsement by the Mayor of the renewed contract is required. However, presentation /outreach to the City Council will be done.

A Motion to recommend to continue to use Good Energy to procure a bid for a new CEA under the existing terms.

So moved by Ms. Brayton; seconded by Ms. Stout-Saunders. All members voted in favor by roll call vote.

Ms. Darby (using the previous letter as a template) will draft a letter to the City Council, the Mayor and the Administration making such recommendation, to be reviewed at the next CEC meeting.

Staff and Member Updates/Discussions

Hiring of Staff Planner: Mr. Cademartori stated that a new hire will be starting tomorrow.

New web page rollout: Ms. Brayton has access; dated material to be updated. She will continue manage the website process with assistance from Mr. Ziergiebel.

CPACE Program: Ms. Stout-Saunders will reach out to Tom Balf, representing the Economic Development Council, and Sal DiStefano, Community Development.

Energy Performance Contracting: Ms. Wheeler stated she was contacted by and spoken with Honeywell and Johnson Controls. Mr. Cademartori has discussed with DPW Director Mike Hale. The city is not looking to pursue at this time and suggests we follow up a year from now.

Net zero stretch code under the new climate bill most likely another 18 months out.

Electric Busses: Cape Ann Climate Coalition has been researching. Ms. Brayton suggests that the CEC discuss at an upcoming meeting.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2021, 5pm, by Zoom

Motion to adjourn: All members voted by roll call vote to adjourn the meeting, 6: 45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders