

MINUTES OF CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
June 23, 2021, 5:30 PM
Remote meeting
(Approved at meeting of Oct. 14, 2021)

This meeting was conducted remotely through ZOOM. All votes have been conducted by Roll Call.

A full recording of this meeting is available at: <http://www.gloucester-ma.gov/1161/June-2021-Past-Meetings>

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

Staff: Gregg Cademartori, Gemma Wilkens of Community Development

Public: Mr. Cademartori recognized that Jen Holmgren and Susan Hoague were attending.

Guests: Byron Woodman, SolectEnergy

Approval of Meeting Minutes: November 27, 2019, January 23, 2020, and February 27, 2020, as revised, unanimously approved. Minutes for March 10 and March 31, 2021, to be voted on at next meeting.

Member Reports: Ms. Brayton attended a Resilience Hubs Webinar from the Clean Energy Group. Focus was on neighborhoods and how to build organically. Ms. Wheeler also watched this webinar.

Mayor Theken joined the meeting. The Mayor mentioned that she receives a wealth of information concerning resiliency, coastal resilience, climate change, etc. and that she tries to attend various Zoom and webinar presentations on these topics to educate herself. Additionally, she is on the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) mayors' committee for climate change to get the House and Governor on board with some of these initiatives. Due to the wealth of information out there, she is requesting a liaison to assist her when she cannot attend all these events so that we can remain current on what bills we may want to support, grants we may want to apply for, climate change, green initiatives to pursue, etc. If a CEC member is available, please email the Mayor and she will pass along potential opportunities/initiatives for follow-up.

Community Development Update: Mr. Cademartori presented a Planning Division Update.

Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA): June 2, 2021, was the Bid Date for a new contract to commence December 2021. Good Energy received four bids for the next 37-39 month contract. The lowest bid was from Constellation Energy.

- Current Program Local Green 5% Rate is \$.011085; New Local Green 5% Rate is \$0.10889, lower than the current Local Green rate
- Current Local Green 100% Rate is \$.13080; New Local Green 100% Rate is \$0.14356/kWh

He noted that the renewable energy credits (RECS) have become more expensive which is why the Local Green 100% rate has increased. RECS will again be supplied by Green Energy Consumer Alliance.

Current program participants will be seamlessly transitioned. No action is required. Terms and conditions will remain the same in terms of consumers can always opt out, change their option, move to an alternate supplier, or move back to the National Grid basic rate.

We will continue to work with Good Energy to update the CEA Website, issue a press release, conduct community outreach, and provide an explanation of the new supplier.

Ms. Wheeler asked if our program is competitive with other offers from other private sellers. Mr. Cademartori stated that, although he has not looked at these closely, due to all the variabilities and conditions of these offers that we are not in a position to make an assessment for the consumer. He suggested that over time we might ask Good Energy to look into this.

Demand Response: Programs that pay organizations to reduce energy load during times of grid stress (high demand) or high energy prices. Provides municipal energy users the ability to earn revenue and lower net energy costs. This is a voluntary program. We will be participating under C-powers energy management program a collaboration with National Grid.

When National Grid expects high demand, notification is given when one should respond by either powering down equipment or shifting to an unoccupied mode if you have an energy management system which thus reduces demand. National Grid then can meter this and see the delta of what has occurred. At the end of the high demand period, you return to normal operation, a value is assessed to the curtailed operation and the City receives funding.

The City is enrolled to take action at the Water Pollution Control facility and Water Treatment Plant (metered). The High School, O'Maley and West Parish schools will be controlled through the energy management systems.

Mr. Moskal recalled that regarding the Water Pollution and Water Treatment Plant that Viola was contractually obligated to manage their own utility bills; is that still the case, would they be entitled to an incentive? Mr. Cademartori will follow up and advise.

Ms. Wheeler asked if there are any other potential buildings to participate in the program. Mr. Cademartori stated that based upon C-power's analysis and taking into consideration operational costs, that these facilities are the best candidates.

Ms. Wilkins reported on the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan Grant (CARP) under the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program: Throughout the application process, the City has worked with MAPC and will continue to do so subsequent to award of funding. MVP awards will be made around July of 2021.

On May 8th the City submitted an application for \$69,890 in state funding with a commitment of an additional \$30,705 from the City. The goal is physical projects that result in a return on investment in terms of energy reduction.

Scope of work included an inventory of GHG emissions, an involved community engagement scheme, a youth internship and planning to identify targets and actions items.

After award, the next task will be data collection and working on the greenhouse gas inventory piece in September/October.

Green Communities Reporting and Project Development: Once we close out FY 2021, collect all the data as to how we have performed over the last year, we can advance to the next grant round. Through our relationship with our National Grid rep, they have done some auditing work for opportunities at the High School, the O'Maley School, potentially the Talbot Rink, and City Hall to identify projects for the next grant round.

SolectEnergy Presentation by Byron Woodman:

PowerOptions is a non-profit aggregation program created by the state to provide municipalities and non-profits with opportunity to benefit from energy aggregation. Through this program they provide energy, natural gas, and electricity. In addition, one of their offerings is the solar program.

Solect was chosen as PowerOptions vendor of choice to bring solar to the market. One of the benefits of the PowerOptions program is to enable municipalities to advance with solar projects without going through a competitive bid process. Public entities can leverage the PowerOptions request for proposal in lieu of conducting individual solicitations and comply with state regulations under MGL Ch. 164S.137.

Solect develops, installs and services the project without any upfront cost. Solect finances projects (primarily under power purchase agreements at a fixed price with a 20–25-year term) through a competitive pricing structure facilitated through the PowerOptions consortium of members. PowerOptions serves as the advocate, advisor, and facilitator to support members' decisions on contracting with providers under its program. All of Solect's pricing and agreements are audited through the PowerOptions program.

See the recording of this meeting for Mr. Woodman's full power point presentation.

Ms. Stout-Saunders asked if PowerOptions is a state agency? Is PowerOptions the final party to approve all aspects of a project. Who audits PowerOptions? Mr. Moskal stated that he believes that PowerOptions is under the Mass HEFA (Health, Education and Facilities Authority), a quasi-state non-profit with bonding authority and that this is probably how these projects are financed. Mr. Woodman will follow up and advise.

Next Steps:

Mr. Woodman looked at all the city facilities energy usage. He suggests that a comprehensive study be done, including projection of new facilities that may be coming online. Mr. Moskal concurred that this, and a review of the wind turbine contractual obligations, and obtaining a sense of the City's interest in pursuing projects of this scale and effort (the Administration, DPW, Planning Office) are needed.

Mr. Cademartori stated that we need to drill down on demand usage and needs (examine Mr. Woodman's spreadsheet), condition/useful life of existing roofs, contractual obligations of the wind turbine project and set up a meeting with the DPW; and an evaluation of optimizing savings vs. resiliency for emergency use.

Mr. Woodman will contact Ms. Wheeler to outline the next deliverables. Mr. Cademartori asked that they begin the Mr. Woodman's spreadsheet and power point presentation as a guideline.

CPace: Ms. Stout-Saunders reported that she has not followed up of late. She sat in on a March 2021 meeting wherein Mr. Destino mentioned the program. Mr. Cademartori will circle back with the group that participated.

Public:

Ellen Lehman raised her hand: RE 2050 net zero. Concerned with a volunteer group taking all the responsibly. Specifically, she brought up the net zero stretch. Mr. Cademartori pointed out that the city is abiding by the state's requirements and that although there have been proposals to strengthen the standards there are no specific mandates at the moment. He pointed out from a public/private perspective they are typically centered around the LEED program so there continues to be a greater amount of efficiency and alternative types of energy being utilized.

Susan Hoague

- Concerning CPace, she attended a meeting that included CPace as a topic and it was mentioned that to date no projects have applied for yet.
- Community solar subscription under the SMART program: how do we let people know about availability. She requested that we follow up with a firm named NEXtamp and the program they are offering, She will forward information to Ms. Stout-Saunders

Marcia Hart: She had enrolled in the CEA program and didn't realize for a year that she was only enrolled in the basic plan (Local 5%) and had to call on her own to get enrolled in the 100% plan. She suggests that outreach should emphasize that people need to be more proactive if they want to contribute more and should be educated as to the impact of the additional contribution. Ms. Wheeler has discussed this with Good Energy. Ms. Hart offered that the Cape Ann Climate Coalition may be able to assist with further educating people. Mr. Cademartori pointed out that although only a small group (100) from the 10,700 participants of the Aggregation program participate in the 100% option, their impact is quite significant as was explained in the CEC March 31, 2021, meeting. There has also been discussion of possibly increasing the 5% basic plan to 10%.

Next Meetings: The best date for Mr. Cademartori and Ms. Wilkens may be 4th Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of July and we will proceed accordingly from there.

Motion to adjourn: All voted to adjourn (except Mr. Moskal and Mr. Ziergiebel who needed to leave the meeting earlier) 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout Saunders

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