

**MINUTES OF CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**November 10, 2021, 5:00 PM**  
**(Approved at meeting of April 14, 2022)**

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

A full recording of this meeting is available at: <https://gloucester-ma.gov/1181/November-2021-Past-Meetings>

**Members Present:** Linda Brayton, John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders, Candace Wheeler, Sam Ziergiebel. Ms. Darby was unable to attend.

**Staff:** Gemma Wilkens of Community Development

**Guests:** None

**Public:** Valerie Nelson and Marcia Hart, Cape Ann Climate Coalition spoke concerning Item # 4.

**Minutes for Approval:** September 9, 2021, and October 14, 2021, not available for vote.

**Member Reports:**

Ms. Brayton reported concerning the Blue Economy Act, the Mass. Municipal Association Policy Committee on Energy and the Environment, and the University of Massachusetts survey concerning coastal resilience research. She will forward links to these reports. Ms. Brayton also provided summaries to the Mayor.

She also attended the Sierra Club and Mass Climate Action Network for their climate leadership fall session for municipal leaders concerning building decarbonization and transportation and the Net Zero Stretch Code. And the Mass. Municipal Association Meeting concerning the Net Zero Stretch Code, Blue Economies Act, solid waste master plan, and other topics.

She mentioned that the Harbor Planning has been rescheduled to November 15, 2021.

1. Community Development Update of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP): The kickoff meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2021. They have 30 registrants so far. Ms. Wilkens reported they are in the data collection phase which is being provided to MAPC.
2. Transition to Electric School Buses: Ms. Stout-Saunders reported the research she has done to determine what firms and programs are available to supply and finance electric school buses. Highland Electric Transportation (HET, Beverly, MA) appears to offer the most advantageous program at this time. HET offers a full turnkey, budget neutral all-inclusive program (cost of vehicle acquisition, parts, charging infrastructure, utility interconnection). The city continues to employ the drivers and maintenance personnel. She noted that in September 2020 a state grant was awarded to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to develop a regional procurement model. This grant is being shared with the primary grant recipient, HET.

CEC members agreed that Community Development should reach out to the School Committee to determine their level of interest and next steps.

3. Sawyer Free Library Project: Ms. Stout-Saunders contacted Simon Poddock, Chair of the Library Capital Projects Committee, to discuss how the CEC may be off assistance. She will attend their next meeting.

4. Sustainability Director Position: A group of individuals from the Cape Ann Climate Coalition (who work with TownGreen) "CACC" have been doing research for this position. Marcia Hart and Valarie Nelson are attending this meeting to summarize their findings:

The CACC members group met with Martha Grover of Melrose, MA who provided a cost benefit analysis for her position. They also gathered information from several other cities who have individuals in this role. They have met with other Gloucester boards such as Open Space and the Conservation Commission. They then developed a flyer and packet of information outlining why a sustainability director position should be considered along with responsibilities of the position, advantages, and a cost benefit analysis all of which has been circulated to Candace Wheeler, the City Councilors, both candidates for Mayor, the Open Space Committee, and Community Development. They also met with Jill Cahill and Greg Cademartori to obtain their input and offer CACC's assistance.

The group also researched how such a position can be created in the city, including review of the City Charter. Ms. Nelson pointed out that the CEC's insights would be helpful to the city.

Ms. Stout-Saunders pointed out that the Cost Benefit Analysis demonstrates that such a position more than pays for itself in addition to the holistic opportunities.

Mr. Moskal believes any recommendation by the CEC would be premature until we have something that the city is considering and that we should table this. Ms. Wheeler suggested that CEC members could, as individuals, explore this with their City Councilor.

Separately, Ms. Nelson mentioned the School Committee candidate debate held in Lanesville and the candidates' interest in achieving net zero energy goals. She will forward the link to this debate to Ms. Wheeler

5. Act Relative to the Future of Heat – proposed State legislation which Ms. Brayton pointed out has 29 topics and that Senator Bruce Tarr is sponsoring the public safety topic.

Ms. Stout-Saunders pointed out that she mentioned this since the City Council passed a resolution in May 2020 supporting the Future Act to address gas leaks and to explore how this new legislation relates to that Future Act. She will circulate the various bill numbers that are being proposed for our further discussion.

**Next Meeting:** December 9, 2021, 5pm

**Motion to Adjourn:** All agreed by roll call vote, 6:30pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Linda Stout-Saunders