

MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
MARCH 10, 2022, 5:00 PM
Approved at meeting of October 12, 2022

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

A full recording of this meeting is available at: <https://gloucester-ma.gov/1198/March-2022-Past-Meetings>

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

Absent: Sam Ziergiebel

Staff: Greg Cademartori, Gemma Wilkens, of Community Development

Guests: Van Du, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2021, approved by Roll Call Vote

Member Reports:

Ms. Brayton, Ms. Stout-Saunders, and Ms. Wheeler attended various information sessions and public meetings concerning the Dept. of Energy Resources Straw Proposal for Stretch Code update and new Specialized Stretch Code that was released on February 9, 2022. Ms. Wheeler reported that we have heard from the Citizens Climate Lobby and Salem Association for the Environment urging surrounding communities to send in comments by the March 18, 2022, deadline. A detailed letter has been written by the Massachusetts Net Zero Buildings Coalition indicating their disappointment because, among other things, it does not address all-electric, has insufficient energy efficiency standards, doesn't consider embodied carbon, nor include renovations, and does not represent the intent of the Next Generation Roadmap legislation signed by the Governor in 2021. CEC members discussed putting information together for the City Council. Mr. Cademartori agreed that it would be worthwhile informing the City Council. Upon Ms. Wheeler's request, Mr. Moskal proposed the following motion:

The CEC raises to the City Council the fact that the new Stretch Code is being considered and should they have an interest in learning more that we would be happy to provide some additional detail to them at their request. All CEC members approved this motion by Roll Call vote.

Ms. Brayton pointed out that a community decision will be required either way by December 2022.

Staff and Member Topics/Updates/Discussions (Taken out of order from Agenda. Agenda item # 3 was not discussed.)

1. Gloucester Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP) update by Van Du, MAPC: Ms. Du provided an outline of recommended CARP goals and strategies and the evaluation criteria that will be used later. On February 24th was third public workshop wherein goals and priorities were drafted. A Meeting-in-a-Box packet was developed to facilitate input from local organizations. These meetings will be coordinated by the interns. Ms. Wilkens pointed out that there will be ongoing outreach to the community. Next workshop will be March 31, 2022. Starting in April, MAPC will start formulating a plan/roadmap for implementation. Ms. Du asked CEC members to provide thoughts on the CARP focus areas based upon the drafted goals and strategies outlined thereunder. Ms. Du will also be reviewing this with internal city staff. Proposed Strategy Evaluation Criteria was reviewed.

4. Update on relating to the TownGreen climate project with the EPA and the Harvard Graduate School of Design: Mr. Cademartori said no new meeting dates have been set and that we are looking at an April/late Spring timeframe for further action.

2. Electric School Buses: Mr. Cademartori will set up a meeting with the School Dept. Ms. Stout-Saunders listed upcoming information sessions which she will distribute to the CEC Members. Mr. Moskal mentioned that a tremendous amount of money will be coming through the EPA and his office and that he would need to recuse himself from discussions of this topic. Ms. Wheeler will put any future discussion at the end of CEC meeting Agendas.

Additional Member Reports:

Ms. Stout-Saunders: Concerning Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE): Mass Development has reported the funding two projects of \$780-K and \$450K with case studies. An informational meeting is coming up later in the month which she will attend.

Ms. Darby: Concerning ARPA funds: Speculated whether some ARPA funds being made available to the city could be earmarked for some of the projects CEC is /or will be working on. Mr. Cademartori that the Capital Improvement Advisory Board will be evaluating and identifying all city projects that may qualify for ARPA funds and that the CEC should advise if we have specific initiatives in mind.

Acknowledge Public: Ms. Wheeler will note names attending. Catherine Ferdowski mentioned she will offer comments offline to Ms. Wheeler who has forwarded past materials from her to CEC members.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2022; **Motion to Adjourn:** 6:24pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders