

MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION
April 14, 2022, 5PM
Approved at the meeting of October 12, 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/1205/April-2022-Past-Meetings>

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

Absent: Debra Darby

Staff: Greg Cademartori, Gemma Wilkens, of Community Development

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

Meeting Minutes: The meeting Minutes for October 14 and November 10, 2021, and January 6, 2022, were unanimously approved by Roll Call vote with changes mentioned by Ms. Brayton.

Member Reports:

Ms. Stout-Saunders:

RE: PACE - Attended a webinar put on by Mass Climate Action Network (MCAN), Mass Development, and a guest speaker from the City of Greenfield concerning Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). Waiting additional information such as housing authority eligibility, retroactive date, and program providers for the financing. She suggests tabling this to next month's agenda for a more in-depth discussion.

RE: Solar - Attended webinar put on by Resonant Energy and Mass Interfaith Power and Light concerning solar for houses of worship and community solar tie-in. She mentioned that the Cape Ann Climate Coalition continues to make requests that we explore Community Solar; and further, since these are typically less than \$250K projects they would not meet the PACE minimum. She suggested that we table this for a future CEC meeting.

Ms. Wheeler: Re Carbonization - Attended a webinar moderated by MCAN on a building decarbonization initiative that is underway in Ithaca, NY. The local government is partnering with a company that handles building conversions to full electrification. She believes this is worthy of further consideration and will table this for a future CEC meeting. Links to the webinar have been forwarded to CEC Members.

Staff and Member Topics/Updates/Discussions

1. Climate Action and Resilience Plan (CARP). Ms. Du reported the last community workshop was held on March 31, 2022, as a virtual open house with breakout rooms to discuss the seven planned focus areas. Draft strategies were presented and deliberated. A survey link for public comments is open until April 15, 2022. (Thus far she has received 20 responses.) Going forward, the CEC along with city staff will assist in guiding the draft plan. The two interns have reached out to approximately nine entities getting strategy input.

2. Possibility of Transition to Electric School Buses (E-Bus) (Mr. Moskal reminded CEC members that he needs to recuse himself from discussions of any EPA grant applications for vehicle electrification.

Ms. Stout-Saunders attended a March 23, 2022, webinar by the EPA concerning their clean school bus initiative and a 5-year rebate program hosted by the Mass Clean Cities and DOER. And two other webinars held on March 31, 2022, concerning an introduction to Vehicle to Grid Technology (V-Grid) and another concerning financing and incentives.

A zoom meeting was held March 17, 2022, with the School Department: Gary Frisch, Chief Financial Officer and Laura Francis, Transportation Director. Also attending were Mr. Cademartori, Ms. Wheeler, and Ms. Stout-Saunders. E-Bus opportunities and options were discussed. Mr. Frisch asked about the need for a competitive bid process which Ms. Stout-Saunders has inquired about but not yet received any definitive responses. Mr. Frisch and Ms. Francis were sent links to four webinar recordings that she and some other members of the CEC and the Cape Ann Climate Coalition have attended over the last 18 months. Ms. Francis has a tentative meeting with Highland Energy Group (HEG) later this month.

Lastly, relating to V-Grid, it has been emphasized that a meeting with our utility is an important first step to determine infrastructure requirements, cost, available programs and timelines. Mr. Moskal mentioned the National Grid Connected Solutions program and that a company such as HEG would be operating under this program. Mr. Ziergiebel is familiar with the Connected Solutions program, and it is his understanding that is how a company providing services such as HEG makes its money. Ms. Stout-Saunders gave an outline of her understanding of the HEG revenue sharing structure.

Ms. Wheeler asked about a group procurement through MAPC Ms. Stout-Saunders has been in touch with Jesse Way of MAPC who is working on the concept of a potential proposal and in that process, questionnaires have been sent municipalities including Gloucester.

Ms. Stout-Saunders mentioned that a Notice of Intent from the Mass Clean Energy Center known as “Act Bus” for \$8 million grant funding has not yet been published.

3. CEC Vacancy: Ms. Wheeler reported that Bob Myers, a past member of the CEC, has written the Mayor expressing his interest to fill the CEC vacancy. Pending approval of Ordinance and Administration, Mr. Myers will be joining the CEC at our May 18 meeting

Not on the Agenda: Stretch Code Motion. Since Mr. Moskal will be departing the meeting at 6pm, Ms. Stout-Saunders asked to review the motion made by the CEC at the March 10, 2022, meeting:

“The CEC raises to the City Council the fact that the Stretch Code is being considered and should they have an interest in learning more about it that we would be happy to provide some additional detail to them at their request. All approved by roll call vote.”

Her question is if any action has been taken. Ms. Wilkens indicated that Community Development has not notified the City Council. Ms. Wheeler asked that Mr. Moskal draft a one paragraph letter to the City Council stating that the Stretch Code has come to our attention and that the CEC will pursue this initiative upon their expression of interest. He agreed to do so early next week. Ms. Brayton mentioned the Stretch Code to the Mayor at a recent event she was attending.

4. TownGreen: Update of meetings of City Departments relating to TownGreen climate projects with the EPA and the Harvard Graduate School of Design: Ms. Wilkens reported that nothing new has occurred. Ms. Brayton mentioned that approximately \$56,000 of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds have been made available for the project. It is her understanding that the TownGreen organization become a non-profit in January 2022.

Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for May 18 to prioritized CARP strategies and June 15, 2022, for final draft CARP language.

Public Comment: **Patti Page**, 3 Title Cove Way, asked about the availability of the final draft CARP for public review and comment. Ms. Wilkens responded that a revised draft in an online format for public comment is anticipated before the end of June, after the June 15 CEC meeting, Ms. Stout-Saunders pointed out that the public can listen in to CEC May and June meetings for ongoing updates.

Motion to Adjourn: 6:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders