

CEC Minutes for Meeting of November 22, 2011

Present: Tom Balf, Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Sam Cleaves, John Rockwell, Jill Buchanan

The Commission was forced to find an alternate meeting location (One Center Street) because City Hall was locked. We did post a note on the front door directing anyone interested in attending to the meeting spot.

Minutes approved with minor corrections.

Welcome to John Rockwell.

John described his conversation with Sarah Garcia in which she explained the **city's priority of focusing on projects that have an immediate and quantifiable impact on the city.** Also, John will bring his experience and expertise in community outreach and support to residents and businesses to improve energy footprints for buildings as well as helping the community take advantage of funding and support programs.

Approximately 30% of John's job will be focused on CEC initiatives.

Commission members expressed preference that his major responsibilities include:

- * tracking our progress towards Green Communities goals.
 - * strengthening our relationship with DPW and other city staff, mainly Jim Hafey in relation to deciding on ESCOs as well as Green Communities progress.
- John agreed to be in touch with John Moskal and DPW about the tracking of our progress towards meeting Green Community requirements, specifically, what measurements are in place?

Tom will send Green Communities application to John Rockwell, which includes the energy measurement metrics that were used to evaluate municipal energy use.

Sam suggested that we consider hiring a college intern to track energy efficiency, or a summer project.

No update on **Green Communities grant.** Tom Balf will meet with Jim Hafey to get an update on this and consideration of ESCO opportunities.

We discussed the opportunity to be one of 15-20 communities that participate in a DOER funded project (with Sagewell as subcontractor) to do **infrared photography on home exteriors, which would provide a preliminary assessment of heat loss** in homes. Candace explained how the town of Hamilton participated in this project. The infrared photos are mailed to all relevant homeowners, with information on how to reduce energy consumption through the DOER program. The program was very successful in Hamilton, and led to several hundred visits to the program website from homeowners of surveyed homes, and to many homeowners proceeding to full energy audits, which were also funded by

DOER and MassSave. It was agreed that this is a great opportunity to quickly capture and assemble lot of useful information on the most dense housing units, which Sam explained would provide the best energy conservation opportunities. **Salem's Energy Manager, Paul Marquis is looking into the same type of project** for that city; part of their effort involves establishing revolving loan fund whereby property owners can tap into low interest loans to pay for improvements.

Tom, Candace and John R. agreed to gather more information from Hamilton **contacts (David Carey and Sue Patroia), also from Salem's Paul Marquis, and** possibly from the city of Springfield, which also participated in the program. Jill expressed particular interest in learning about whether pro-active outreach is necessary, and what kind of outreach has been found to be successful in communities with demographics similar to those of Gloucester. The committee will pursue this asap and decide whether to present our action recommendation to the mayor and Sarah Garcia.

The question was raised of whether this work would impact local folks who do thermal imaging, and our initial assessment is that this would not be a concern because the imaging for the DOER project is solely for the outside of the home and not the comprehensive imaging done by these local companies. However, we will continue to investigate this question and make sure that our efforts are supporting the local energy-related businesses and not hindering them in any way.

We discussed the **MAPC regional ESCO** option. As of this date, there are three candidates; however, a decision on a final candidate is imminent.

Communication/outreach : Jill will finish the Gloucestercleanenergy.org wordpress web site, and ask all CEC members to invite their contacts to subscribe. Using the site, we will be able to network with colleagues and build awareness of opportunities and good works, and ultimately to build the community of active participants in the clean energy community. Commission members agreed to invite at least 10 (but preferably many more) people to join the site. Sam and Linda B. will help provide background info and useful links.

Renewables at Blackburn: EDIC/Gloucester Engineering did not come to an agreement. A follow-up meeting is scheduled on Monday, November 28 at 5:00 with Susan Egan, Tom Balf, Gregg Cademartori, Becky Bernie, John Moskal and Jeff Towne, with the intention of keeping up momentum for pursuing a wind project on city-owned land at the Blackburn site. Towards this goal, the commission agreed to investigate the option of obtaining a design and construction grant from DOER, and possibly funding it through a grant from Mass CEC. There is no submission deadline on the CEC grant application, but we need to get this in asap in order to have a chance of obtaining funding. Tom and Candace agreed to investigate the grant application so that we can put together a rough timeline for wind by the December CEC meeting.

Next meeting: December 20