

CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

June 28, 2011

Attending: Tom Balf, Jill Buchanan, Sam Cleaves, John Moskal, Linda Brayton **Absent:** Candace Wheeler, Linda Stout-Saunders, Steve Winslow (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. A motion to accept the notes from the previous meeting as written was made by Sam Cleaves and seconded by John Moskul, and the notes were unanimously approved.

Commission members update:

Members agreed with Tom's suggestion that each meeting should include time for member updates in order for us to take advantage of the information members are continually gaining through their attendance at workshops, webinars, meetings and other events. Also this time would be available for announcing up-coming meetings, information, etc. Jill mentioned that a CEC website would be a good place to post such information too. Tom thought that the CEC section on the City website itself could be used for basic information like a calendar, meeting agendas and notes, and it could also link to other sites. (See also Communication Plan review.)

Linda S. was planning to attend the Stretch Code Workshop, offered by the City because the Stretch Code goes into effect on 7/1/11, at the Building Center, but she was unavailable to report on this. Linda B. reported that she'd received feedback from an attendee, and apparently the workshop went smoothly.

Tom reported that he and Jill met with Ray Lamont, Publisher, and Steve Fletcher, Editor, of the Gloucester Daily Times, and it was agreed that the CEC would provide monthly columns on Clean Energy topics. (See also Communication Plan review.)

Linda B. reported on the meeting that she, Candace and Steve attended in Beverly. The event was hosted by CLF Ventures and MassCEC and entitled "Wind Energy on the North Shore: A Peer-to-Peer Learning Session for Local Officials." The format allowed for attendees to share their experiences and knowledge. Both a summary of all the break out groups' discussion notes and also a resource guide entitled "Land-based Wind Energy: A Guide to Understanding the Issues and Making Informed Decisions" were emailed out to all the attendees for sharing in their communities. These items were forwarded to CEC members.

Linda B. also reported that she "attended" two webinars - DOER's "Green Communities multi-agency webinar: Municipalities and Wind Projects" and DOE's "Best Practices for Establishing Municipal Funds for Energy Efficiency Projects." (These webinars will be posted on the two agencies' websites.) Two "takeaways" : 1) Gloucester has already had a lot of good experience under its belt what with considering ordinance requirements, various types of wind projects, financing mechanisms, etc. 2) There are many models for how other communities are handling energy funds and savings that are generated. Linda suggested that CEC keep track of savings from Green Communities and other clean energy projects at least informally. Members agreed that although it is premature to be setting up revolving funds, dedicated accounts, etc., it is important to have a general accounting of the funds that are generated and how they are used and also to make this information available to city officials and the community from time to time.

Staff report: In Steve's absence, Tom led a discussion of key points in Steve's written staff report (on handout) which is structured on draft strategic plan

1) Plan for the future

- Discussion in Community Development Department re: role of Clean Energy Manager is ongoing. Tom shared the draft job description with members. The position may combine the Clean Energy Manager duties with Housing Rehab and home energy assignments. Under this plan the funds for the Clean Energy Project Manger will be available longer.
- Building audits – may occur as first step under a regional ESCO (Energy Services Company) contract.
- Potential PV sites – received info from R-1 Solar on PV for school roofs. Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)/net metering agreement needed to go forward and an RFP for the related roofing job.

2) Reduce demand – system changes

- Further input of facility information into the MassEnergy Insight program has been accomplished, and electric accounts are now lined up. Oil use must be uploaded. John commented that the Insight software (by DOER) is good for electricity use but hasn't really gotten to gas and oil yet. Hopefully it will in future, but this will be more difficult.

3) Identify and Implement Energy Conservation and Efficiency measures

- Green Communities energy efficiency measures for O'Maley (funded by the \$198K GC grant award) will be implemented by DPW facilities and through B2Q, the National Grid consultant. We can track the progress of this project over the summer.
- Will pursue Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Regional ESCO for other measures. Sam can keep us posted on progress and availability.

4) Identify and Implement Renewable Energy Technologies

- Blackburn wind turbine – ongoing discussions being held between City officials and Gloucester's Economic Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC) re: EDIC taking the lead on the installation of a city owned wind turbine on city land at Blackburn Industrial Park.
- Gloucester Engineering wind and solar project proposal – company still moving ahead. Impact on City-owned project is being assessed. Company would assume risk, City benefits from job creation, taxes, impact on the environment, and would receive a percentage of energy savings. The current percentage under discussion could perhaps be further negotiated members thought.
- Magnolia Woods and Bond Hill/ Flo Design projects – no new information.
- Report from R-1 Solar on potential PV at school sites – need to ID what City will gain. No report on progress of wind turbine at O'Maley.

5) Transportation

- Bicycle sharrow stencils planned for July. Comm Dev - \$100K for improved sidewalks.

6) Community Engagement and Outreach – communications plan discussed later in meeting

- June 1st event Green Communities award presented to City by secretary of Environmental Affairs. Everal CEC members attended

7) Support Economic and Community Development goals – no new information

8) Articulate Financing strategies – from staff report

- Regional ESCO: Providing information to MAPC necessary to include Gloucester. Key points: No Cost to be in RFP. City would need to find funds for audits.
- PPA/Bond = discussed related to wind turbines in Blackburn. Gregg to follow-up. Need to decide on whether to go ahead with consolidated billing. Discussed consolidated billing with Suez. Only

major drawback appears to be cash management – city would need to pay all electric bills at once.

- Working to implement Green Communities Grant at O’Maley/Rink by fall
- Roofing project expected over the some at most schools
- City Hall conservation: Ongoing – ESCO could help as well
- Track other grants: *Commonwealth Wind - Design and Construction*

9) Coastal Protection and Climate Change -

Tom reported that Gregg Cademartori, City Planner, has been looking into resources for simulation and modeling of sea level changes. A tool to plug in the data on rising tides is needed. Gloucester does have LIDAR (Light, Imaging, Detection and Ranging system) data coming this fall.

Sam said that MAPC is attempting to put together clusters of North Shore and South Shore towns. (Saco Bay area did a 5 town project.) There are regional examples of sea level data assessments. Later a town by town basis could be used. Sam said that any info is good to have, and it is good to start the conversation. Example of need for sea level rise data here is the proposed Hampden Hotel which would be 14’ above storm surge.

CEC Commission and Member Reports:

1) Final Review and Approval of Strategic Plan

Tom said that he had incorporated changes suggested to him by members in the final draft. The plan is a working document with goals and objectives based on Green Communities requirements and the CEC’s mission as described in the City ordinance, and it will be carried out in conjunction with City officials and staff and the community. A motion to adopt the final draft of the Strategic Plan was made by Sam and seconded by Jill, and the motion was unanimously approved. The Plan will be made publicly available through posting on the CEC web page and other means.

2) Final Review and Approval of Communications Plan

Jill talked about the concept of a virtual home for information. She offered to do a mock up of a CEC website and accompanying blog. She said these would be essentially free, easy to do, and could be a “stand alone” but would link to the City website CEC page. This CEC page would have on it such information as news, meetings and agendas, etc. The blog could hold much more info and be updated frequently. It could include links to other information, a series of sections (e.g. About Us, Clean Energy Opportunities for Gloucester, What You Can Do, and Who’s Doing What in Gloucester.)

Members discussed importance of the blog being focused on Gloucester and not just general information. Tom thought that demonstrating impacts would be valuable and gave example of sustainability sites like Boston University’s where change is measured in real time.

Jill reported that the Gloucester Daily Times would publish a monthly column (about 400-500 words) from CEC, and also that publisher Ray Lamont would introduce the Commission. Tom will give him our existing “one-pager” on the CEC’s background, mission and accomplishments. We will also furnish them with our Strategic Plan when it is ready to be posted. An article on the Stretch Code going into effect this month is forth-coming also. Then members will each take a turn doing a column. Tentative assignments for the next few months are as follows:

- July – Sam, Green Communities status and what it means for Gloucester

- August – Tom, update on O’Maley energy efficiencies project funded by GC grant.
- September – Linda, energy efficiency, getting ready for winter.
- October – John/Tom wind resources
- Jill – Climate adaption (Lidar)
- December – Tom/ Linda (?) Lighting, streetlights

3) Other projects

Tom has a graduate student intern from the University of Richmond who will do a summer research project on the City’s potential purchase of the streetlights. He will build on the work that CEC members have already done. We should have his complete report by September and then make recommendations to City officials.

No further updates on ESCO.

Wrap Up

Jill said that she would prefer not to take the notes for every meeting, especially now that she is putting in so much time on communications. Members agreed to take turns. Linda B. took notes for this meeting. Sam volunteered to do next month’s.

Action items –

- 1) Jill is working on a mock up for a CEC blog
- 2) Tom will provide “one pager” on CEC to Gloucester Daily times
- 3) Tom will work with student intern on streetlights report

John made a motion to adjourn, and Sam seconded it. All members were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Brayton