

Gloucester Clean Energy Commission

September 12, 2013 Meeting

Meeting Summary

Members Present: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Sam Cleaves, John Moskal

Staff: Matt Coogan

Absent: Tom Balf, Linda Saunders, one vacancy

Public visitor- Joe George

Minutes of June 27, 2013 CEC meeting approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public comment: Joe George- Fund school lunches with Solarize MA program? City would need to apply by 10/22 and would require a volunteer or intern to help administer the grant. Matt Coogan and Tom Daniel will look into.

1) Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP) follow up with Mayor Kirk and MAPC: The Mayor encouraged the CEC to help the city meet its Green Community Energy Plan goal of reducing municipal energy use by 20%. Though some potential streetlight replacement energy costs could be applied to LED replacement costs, there is no strong interest or resources to work with MAPC to create a Gloucester LEAP, which would have cost about \$9,000. Several members spoke in favor of revising our current CEC Strategic Plan vs. a new LEAP. Matt noted that Community Development Dept. is already using Mass. Energy Insight software to do some of what the LEAP program does. The CEC voted unanimously not to do a LEAP plan with MAPC and Sam will inform the MAPC Energy Division staff of the CEC decision.

LEAP follow up and CEC strategic plan focus: In a related conversation, CEC members present discussed the return to a more focused, project-oriented program for the CEC moving forward. John and Sam proposed that the following items be the central focus for the 12 months moving forward:

- 1) Work with staff and city departments, outside vendors to purchase streetlights and convert to LEDs;
- 2) Procure grants that will help the DPW and other city departments complete targeted energy efficiency projects;

3) Work with the city and National Grid to evaluate extending natural gas lines into areas of Gloucester that currently don't have them. Helping people convert from burning fuel oil to natural gas would save them money and emit about 50% less green house gases.

The members present agreed by voice vote to place this slate of ideas on the October agenda for discussion by the full CEC if possible and potential adoption of our work plan goals for the next 12 months or so. The CEC Strategic Plan could be revised to reflect our updated goals if adopted. In addition to these three goals, CEC would be interested in inviting representatives of new technology, such as tidal energy systems, to attend a CEC meeting.

Relative to goal of extending natural gas service, John Moskal has contacts at Dept. of Public Utilities and National Grid, and will inquire about a service map that would show areas of City with and without gas service.

2) Guardian Energy/DOER funded National Grid projects/DOER reporting: Guardian Energy is an energy project facilitator competing with EMC,(the facilitator currently assisting our DPW with National Grid incentive projects). Following report on Guardian Energy by Matt Coogan, the CEC agreed not to host Guardian Energy at its October meeting and to refer all such further inquiries regarding working with the city on utility efficiency projects to Facilities Manager Jim Hafey at DPW.

3) Status of Gloucester National Grid rebate projects using Green Community Funds to help complete: Matt Coogan: Four projects were funded and have been completed, two at Gloucester High School, one at O'Maley Middle School and one at the city library. All of the projects involved lighting and/or controls upgrades. Combined, the projects have equaled about a 4 % drop in municipal energy use. (This is on top of savings achieved in 2012, though exact percentage is still unclear).

Matt noted that thermal imaging camera purchased with Green Communities funds had just arrived, for use by the Building Dept.

4) Status of Green Community Program reports due to MA DOER: Matt reported that a quarterly report was filed with DOER in August and the FY 13 annual report will be sent in November, 2013. Sam urged that a news story be written to publicize the energy savings achieved through the Green Communities program and National Grid incentives. Matt will find out when the next round of Green Communities funding will be open for applications.

5) CEC representation at MassEnergy 9/28 event in Gloucester: This is a tour of the Gloucester wind turbines for people who have purchased Renewable Energy Certificates from the project. Linda Brayton will attend this event on behalf of CEC.

6) Streetlight acquisition conversion and next steps: Matt Coogan reported that Mike Hale at DPW does support purchase of street lights and conversion to LED using the MAPC LED buying program but is concerned about maintaining the lights once the city owns them. Erin Brandt at MAPC has said that she would be willing to set up calls with Mike and staff of other communities that have already converted to LED to check savings and costs. There is finally an LED “tariff” (rate schedule) available so municipalities can estimate the operating costs after conversion to LED lighting. The CEC estimates that \$50,000 of the savings generated by the city owning the street lights could be used to pay for a maintenance contractor for the new LEDs and another \$50,000 in savings towards actual purchase of LEDs. Estimated conversion cost to LEDs: Approx. 3,000 streetlight fixtures in Gloucester x \$750 per LED fixture = \$2.25 million cost to convert. This could be done in phases with a revolving fund approach, where savings in cost of electricity from one round help fund the next round of conversions to LED. There may also be incentive programs that would reduce the cost of conversion. Matt will report on this at the October CEC meeting.

7) Tracking CEC work items- Linda Stout-Saunders has developed this. Due to her absence, this item was postponed until the October meeting.

8) Other items: Status of Gloucester fuel-efficient vehicle policy under Green Communities Plan: Matt has located the policy that was approved by DOER but it needs some updating. He has made City purchasing Dept. and CFO of School Dept. aware of the policy.

Status of CEC Annual Report: Candace is putting this together.

CEC intern from Endicott: Matt will work Tom Daniel to explore an intern for CEC work that could include updating the web page, helping with grants and administration, Solarize MA, etc.

Meeting date: the CEC chose to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m., 3 Pond Road, City Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted by Sam Cleaves