

**CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2015**

(Approved at meeting of December 10, 2015)

**Members Present:** Candace Wheeler, Tom Kiely, Linda Brayton, Bob Myers, John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders.  
**Staff:** Matt Coogan. **Guests:** Lindsay Thompson, Director of Marketing, HomeWorks Energy, Inc. **Public:** Suzanne Altenburger

The meeting was called to order by Wheeler at 7:32 pm at Pond Road City Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. The minutes for the May 28th meeting were unanimously approved with some minor changes to be made by Brayton.

**Guest Presentation:** Lindsay Thompson HomeWorks Energy, Inc., established in 2008 (Moskal mentioned he had his home assessed by Home Works several years ago) provides residential (4 units or less) home energy assessments (HEA's) in accordance with the Mass Save Program and similar to services provided by Next Step Living. In addition to HEA's, they focus on insulation, HVAC system improvements, weatherization and other energy efficiency measures some that go beyond the Mass Save Program offerings (including hazardous material remediation) being an overall home-improvement contractor. Since July of this year, they have completed approx. 30 HEA's in Gloucester. They are building awareness of their services by direct mailings, home shows, TV ads and other media and are looking to partner with local plumbers and electricians. Thompson will get back to Wheeler regarding Home Works' ability to provide similar services for commercial/industrial facilities. Moskal pointed out that although the CEC does not endorse one particular provider that these services are good for the economy and create a competitive market for residents. They have provided approx. 9,000 HEA's statewide.

**CEC Member News/Commentary:**

Stout mentioned a Kill-a-Watt meter advertised as being available for borrowing at the Rockport Library and will follow up on this for Gloucester; and a National Grid Community Connections presentation schedule for September 24, 6PM at the Gloucester High School which she will attend.

**Public Comment:** None.

**CEC Member News and Comments:**

**Staff and Member Reports/Updates/Discussions:**

1. Update on Status of Net-Metering Cap increase: Wheeler, Brayton and Myers attended a meeting with Bruce Tarr and Ann Margaret Ferrante in July at the State House. They found both to be very well informed and in support of raising the net metering cap for at least 1 year with a push for a statewide policy/rate design and pursuing longer term measures that would deal with utility concerns especially sharing the cost of maintaining the grid. They provided a list of key legislative leaders and urged that municipalities contact them. The Senate has passed a Net Metering bill which is now awaiting House vote. Wheeler will follow up with B. Tarr as to whether the CEC should send a letter supporting this legislature.

2. Outreach to Residents/Businesses:

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Gloucester (UU Church) has established an initiative known as TownGreen 2025 (Town Green) whose goals is making the City carbon neutral by the year 2025. Wheeler discussed CEC's support of TownGreen efforts with Jim Destino who agreed and that a follow up meeting with the Mayor should be planned. Wheeler is a co-chair of TownGreen committee whose meetings are the first Tuesday of each month. TownGreen will be holding a "Clean Energy Fair" at Gloucester High School on November 7, 2015. Further information is available at [towngreen2025.org](http://towngreen2025.org).

Over the last few months the UU Church held several workshops with Mass Energy representatives promoting the Solar Connect program. Under this program approx. 16 solar systems were installed in Gloucester.

TownGreen has developed a solar initiative "Gloucester Solar Challenge" modeled on the Solarize Mass Program. It is an education and outreach effort to assist residents and businesses in understanding solar power and its benefits. The push is to get solar installations operational prior to a

planned expiration on Dec. 31, 2016 of a 30% federal investment tax credit. Solar Challenge intends to issue an RFP to multiple contractors. A selection committee from TownGreen will review and grade the proposals and choose a contractor. Moskal and Stout volunteered to assist the Solar Challenge committee with the program. This program will not require any City funding.

### 3. Outreach via Website and Social Media:

Myers discussed a “How to Structure the Social Business Network”, that includes setting goals, engaging people, measurement of success i.e. “Klout Scores” and clarifying CEC’s message to the Community, how and why to engage. One of Myers’ suggestions is crowd sourcing and/or determining which media are most beneficial to post to and when. Question is what our current social media status is. Discussions included identifying exactly what it is we want to accomplish, should we venture outside of the Gloucester Community, how this lines up with our ordinance and strategic plan. In conclusion, the next suggested step is that Myers meet with certain officials within the City including legal counsel and that we will continue to discuss development of this program (and how social media can/cannot be useful) at our next meeting. It was suggested that the UU Church could benefit from this type of communication media. Other thoughts were to simply use what is now available such as Innovate Gloucester and/or an ongoing column in the Gloucester Daily Times. Suzanne Altenburger commented that she had difficulty accessing CEC agenda from the City website.

4. In-pipe Electricity Generation: Myers followed up with Lucid Energy, Portland, OR electricity generation. The LucidPipe Power System is a water-to-wire system that generates clean, renewable energy from excess head pressure in gravity-fed water pipelines. Myers has discussed this technology with Jay Jarosz the City’s Operations Manager of Utilities who has expressed interest in exploring further. The technology includes the channeling of gravity fed water from reservoirs through existing pipe infrastructure typically 24” minimum pipes (the City has 20”). Whether we require additional electric powering production due to the turbines is a consideration. Myers will continue to track this opportunity.

5. Natural Gas Leaks: Brayton and Wheeler will attend a MAPC gas leak workshop on Oct. 9 at the Quincy Public Library. It was suggested that the gas leak map from HEET be made available at Innovate Gloucester.

### 7. Ongoing and New Items:

LED Streetlight Conversion: City has been awarded \$240K Green Communities grant for replacement of approx. 2800 streetlights. Coogan is discussing with Siemens the use of 3000K LED vs. 4000K LED fixtures. Issues are cost, National Grid rebates (approval of level rebates for the 3000K fixtures is imminent), environmental impact and efficiency. Goal is to commence installation Dec. 2015.

Electric Vehicles: Received approval of \$51,000 grant for up to 5 additional vehicles and another charging station. Grant expires in approx. 6 months. Altenburger questioned whether we could use vehicle retrofit kits to convert the existing City fleet which she believes would be more cost effective. Need to determine the States procurement grant requirements if this were to be explored further.

Solar Bylaws/Ordinances: Investigate DOER model for zoning of ground-mounted solar; research case studies. Once determined, it has been agreed that the CEC will present its findings to the City Council.

New England Clean Energy Council: a business organization for New England companies in the green technology sector active in energy public policy and legislative lobbying for clean energy. Wheeler thought that we might consider joining this Council. After discussion, it was determined that the CEC will not join.

### 8. Action Items:

(2) Sept. 16, 2015

Continue to explore options for Solar Sighting/Bylaws/Ordinances – Coogan, CEC Members  
Net Metering Cap legislation – Wheeler, Brayton  
Develop City Inventory of Owned/rented properties – Coogan’s Intern  
LED Streetlights – Coogan  
Social Media Initiative – Myers  
Strategic Plan Development – Brayton, Cleaves, Kiely  
Green Community Signs placement – Coogan  
Gas Leak Workshop – Brayton, Wheeler  
TownGreen 2025 Solar Challenge – Meeting with Mayor, Wheeler; Advisory Committee, Moskal, Saunders-Stout

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 7:30pm, Pond Road City Hall Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders