

**CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2015
(Approved at meeting of March 24, 2016)**

Members present: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Sam Cleaves, Tom Kiely, John Moskal, Bob Myers, Linda Stout-Saunders. **Staff:** Matt Coogan. **Guest:** John O'Rourke, Director of Marketing Northeast, GoodEnergy

The meeting was called to order by Wheeler at 7:31pm at Pond Road City Hall Annex, 2nd floor conference room. The minutes for the June 17, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

CEC Member News and Comments:

Coogan reported that the High School and Middle School now have energy management software in place to monitor building energy usage.

Myers discussed community solar and the push of projects by National Grid which Wheeler suggest we investigate at a future CEC meeting; Moskal commented that a City Community Solar project is not really needed due to the turbine projects in place. Wheeler suggested that this is something that the UU Church may want to pursue on their own.

Staff and Member Reports/Updates/Discussions

1 (a) Outreach to Residents/Businesses:

Guest Presentation: John O'Rourke, Good Energy concerning the bulk procurement of power for residents and businesses. By aggregating energy requirements, economies of scale are created to achieve: lower electricity prices/save money, rate stability, and the opportunity to purchase renewable energy; commonly known as Municipal Energy Aggregation.

Good Energy is a leading national electricity aggregator. They currently have municipal aggregation plans for 24 Massachusetts municipalities filed with the Dept. of Public Utilities. They have an agreement with Mass Energy Consumers Alliance for sourcing MA Class I RECS.

The Aggregation program is of no cost to the municipality but is subject to approval by the City Council. It does not interfere with the level of service provided by the utility. The opportunity is to give residents and businesses lower electricity rates by aggregating the electricity load of the community through competitive bids of electric supply from large, national suppliers. Good Energy solicits competitive supplier bids for typically a 2 year fixed price. Community participants in the program may "opt out" at any time without penalty. Good Energy offers options for the municipality to participate in green/renewable energy benefits under the Aggregation program. A standard threshold has been 5% but Melrose as example is opting for 11% renewable and Cambridge is looking to achieve 100%. The green energy costs are added to the fixed price.

MAPC is intending to issue an RFP next week for aggregating services which we will look into.

Since the program is subject to Council approval and a new Council is expected to be in place January 2016, after much discussion it was determined that we table the Aggregation program until after the election. A letter to the Mayor will be drafted.

1 (b) TownGreen 2025 collaboration (UU Church initiative for carbon-neutral Gloucester). Saunders attended the Solar Challenge Committee meeting on October 20 to assist with the assessment of various proposals presented to the Committee. The Committee intends to make a selection at the end of the month. Gloucester Energy Fair, 11/7: Coogan is preparing a presentation.

1 (c) National Grid Community Initiative program to encourage residents to do energy efficiency upgrades: due to time commitment and minimal impact it was moved to not participate.

2. Outreach via website and social media to increase resident awareness of local programs and resources: Myers has been doing extensive research and has outlined possible communication outlets. It has been concluded that such an in-depth approach may be more than we can manage. It has been agreed that we will continue to explore how to communicate (“get the word out”) and that Myers should research further what other municipalities are doing. Further, we will complete our Strategic Plan and determine how social media can be made a part of the Plan. Cleaves suggest that Myers then come back with one concise presentation.

3. Net Metering Cap legislation: Ongoing; Brayton has had discussions with various parties; Waiting for the next round of legislation.

4. Natural Gas Leaks: Brayton and Wheeler attended a MAPC conference “Understanding and Mitigating Natural Gas Leaks in Massachusetts” on Oct. 7. The event provided a view of the natural gas leaks issue with perspectives from political, utility, municipal and academic panelists. It was suggested that Coogan follow up with the DPW to determine what actions they may be taking.

5. Ongoing and new items:

Strategic Plan: Our next CEC Meeting will be devoted to working on this.

Streetlight Conversion: Input from residents of sample lighting; we can shield certain lights as requested by some residents. Next step is to choose a fixture/brand hopefully before the end of the year.

Electric Vehicle Incentive (new round): need final Council approval

Action Items

Net Metering Cap: follow legislation

Gas Leak Follow-up with DPW - Coogan

Research Social Media Outreach by other Municipalities – Myers

Strategic Plan development – Next CEC Meeting- Members

Continue to explore options for Solar Siting

Zoning By-laws for ground-mounted solar projects – Cleaves, Coogan

Develop City Inventory of owned/rented properties – Coogan’s Intern

The meeting was adjourned at approx. 9:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2015, 7:30 p.m. in the Pond Rd. Annex Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders