

**CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2015
(Approved at meeting of March 24, 2016)**

Members present: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Sam Cleaves, Tom Kiely, Linda Stout-Saunders. **Staff:** Matt Coogan. **Public:** Tom Mikus, Member, Rockport Green Community Task Force

The meeting was called to order by Wheeler at 7:35pm at Pond Road City Hall Annex, 2nd floor conference room. The minutes for the September meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Tom Mikus met Wheeler at the November Energy Fair. As a member of the Rockport Green Community Committee, he is interested to learn how we contribute to the community. The City of Rockport is intending to apply for Green Community status under the next round in October 2016. Tom mentioned that they may also have some potential sites for wind turbines but that Green Communities is their primary focus.

CEC Member News and Comments: The recent (12/9/15) letter to the Gloucester Daily Times concerning the TownGreen 2025, and specifically Solar Challenge, was discussed amongst the Members and how, if at all, we should respond. One thought was to have Dick Prouty of TownGreen respond. Further, a recent Solar Challenge flyer that had been distributed was of concern; specifically, that the City's participation and role of the CEC under the Solar Challenge program may be misinterpreted.

Coogan mentioned that the Mayor's Secretary had received a phone call from a customer of Direct Energy Services (contractor under the Solar Challenge program) who was dissatisfied with their work. It was suggested that TownGreen include a contact number for issues such as this.

In conclusion, CEC voted to have Wheeler immediately call Dick Prouty and that Wheeler and Kiely will draft a follow-up letter to Mr. Prouty providing a guideline for any future media mentioning the City and/or CEC. CEC will further discuss how to define our support of local initiatives and collaborations in general at our next meeting.

Brayton, Wheeler and Saunders have attended some Solar Challenge workshops; Brayton provided the Solar Challenge Committee with a list of local non-profit organizations.

Staff and Member Reports/Updates/Discussions:

1. Strategic Plan: Reviewed additional line items from Kiely's tracking document distributed last month. It was concluded, as previously suggested, that we pick a few goals and focus on those; and then update our plan annually. Kiely will redraft a plan emphasizing specific projects for 2016. Strategic Plan will also include steps to be taken to advance CEC social media.

2. Streetlights: Awaiting City Council approval on the financing; getting close to the next Green Community round of funding for new projects.

Action Items

Redraft Strategic Plan – Kiely

Other from October Mtg:

-Net Metering Cap: follow legislation

-Gas Leak Follow-up with DPW - Coogan

-Research Social Media Outreach by other Municipalities – Myers

- 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 8:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 28, 2016, 7:30 p.m. in the Pond Rd. Annex Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders