

Minutes of the Clean Energy Commission meeting Aug. 11, 2016
(Approved at the meeting of 10/27/16)

Attending: Commissioners: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Linda Stout-Saunders, Paul McGeary; Staff: Matt Coogan; Public: Tom Mikus, Dick Prouty. *Absent:* Commissioners Bob Myers, Tom Kiely, John Moskal

The meeting was called to order at the City Hall Annex conference room at 8:34 p.m. by Cahr, Candace Wheeler. *Approval of the minutes* of past meeting was deferred until next meeting.

CEC member news

Candace Wheeler noted the positive recognition of the city's clean energy efforts in the report by Environment Massachusetts. She also noted that Environment Massachusetts had honored the city in a ceremony at City Hall in July. She asked **Matt Coogan** to post Environment Massachusetts' full report on the city website.

Strategic plan

Now that the Strategic Plan has been approved as edited, it will be posted to the city web site. **Matt Coogan** will undertake that task.

Rockport update

Tom Mikus reported that Guardian Energy Management Solutions has been working with Rockport and has focused on updating heating systems in the schools as a way to save energy. .

City energy use reduction

Matt Coogan reported that the city is currently at its goal of reducing energy usage by 20 percent. He cautioned, however, that the percentage of reduction tends to fluctuate depending on time of year and other factors. Still, he said, the Mass. Energy Insight database is a useful yardstick. **Linda Stout Saunders** noted that the usage calculation doesn't include the seasonal fluctuations and that it would be well if it did. Matt replied that the data tend to be erratically updated, accounting for the fluctuation. He did note that if we are able to maintain the 20 percent usage goal we can apply for further grants of the state Department of Energy Resources. He said the city would continue to try to reduce energy use. Next steps include continued retrofitting of existing buildings to be more energy efficient.

Community aggregation

Matt Coogan reported that the project has been approved by the City Council. It is currently in a holding pattern, awaiting state review. Once the review is completed and the plan approved, Good Energy will come back before the commission to strategize next steps. Our goal is to be able to solicit bids for an energy supplier after National Grid announces its latest rates in November. .

CEC/Town Green 2025

Candace Wheeler will send our letter recommending that the city participate to the mayor

National Grid community initiative program for 2017

This program, designed to encourage people to sign up for energy audits, is offered each year. National Grid offers financial incentives to the city based on the success of the program. The money received can be used for energy projects. Last year we opted not to participate as the amount of effort seemed beyond the capacity of the commission for small financial reward. It was suggested that we might partner with Town Green 2025 to carry out the program. The commission voted to ask **Candace Wheeler** and **Matt Coogan** to draft a letter of interest by Sept. 1. The application deadline is Nov. 1..

MOTION

On a motion by **Paul McGeary**, seconded by **Linda Stout Saunders**, the commission voted **four in favor, none opposed**, to ask the chair to compose a letter of interest and Matt Coogan to send the letter of interest by the Sept. 1 deadline, and that the letter not require further commission review.

MOTION PASSES

General discussion:

The commission discussed the recently passed energy bill. It was noted that the legislation favored incentives for offshore wind and hydro power. Increase in requirements for utility purchase of renewable power were not increased. **Tom Mikus** offered to send a note to the commission identifying those items that didn't make the final legislation.

Linda Brayton noted that an article in the Gloucester Daily Times indicated that legislation calling on utilities to fix leaks in gas lines had passed and asked that the article be included in the minutes. She also commended State Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) for his work on the bill.

Dick Prouty discussed initial the potential of a community solar project in Lanesville, including St. Paul Lutheran Church, the Orthodox Congregational Church and the Community Center. He pointed to a similar project in the town of Brewster as a model.

Other potential solar sites were discussed including the new roof at the Jodrey State Fish Pier, the parking area to be part of the YMCA-headed housing and commercial development at the Fuller School. It was noted that the city doesn't have a solar ordinance and there was some concern about whether so-called "canopy" solar arrays would be permitted. **Matt Coogan** said he would check with the building inspector to see what the requirements would be for such a project under existing city ordinances.

Dick Prouty noted that the Gloucester Meetinghouse Foundation has been awarded 20 solar panels by Direct Energy as a reward for having hit its goal of 100 installations in the city. He said the foundation was looking for a suitable site for the household size installation..

Paul McGeary circulated an article about a company generating and storing energy through devices called "Powerbuoys." He will reach out to the company producing them (Ocean Power Technologies) to see if they would be willing to make a presentation to the commission.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul McGeary

Attachments:

News article on state legislation on gas line leaks

News article on power generation by "Powerbuoys"