

MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

January 26, 2017

City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room, Dale Avenue

(Approved at meeting of February 23, 2017)

Members Present: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Tom Kiely, Paul McGeary (by phone), Bob Myers, Linda Stout-Saunders

Staff: Matt Coogan.

Guests: Amanda Nash and Marcia Hart of 350.org

Public: Tom Mikus, Rockport Clean Community Task Force

The meeting was called to order by **Ms. Wheeler** at 7:30 pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes

On a motion by **Mr. Kiely**, seconded by **Ms. Brayton**, the minutes for the meetings of October 27 and December 8, 2016 were unanimously approved. Concerning CEC meeting minutes format: (1) It was agreed that “Action Items” would be identified at the end of the minutes and (2) **Ms. Brayton** was told by the City Clerk that attachments are not imbedded in the posted minutes. Thus, it was agreed by CEC Members that any attachments will be indicated to be “available upon request” and/or a link when available will be indicated.

Member Updates

Town of Ipswich Climate Change Committee: December 13, 2016 **Ms. Wheeler** and **Mr. Coogan** made a presentation to the Town of Ipswich to report on Gloucester’s CEC progress and to make recommendations to the Town. Since Ipswich maintains a municipal light plant providing its own distribution and supply service, they are subject to certain guidelines under The Green Communities Act in order to be eligible to participate in the grant program. **Mr. Coogan** has put them in touch with Joanne Bissetta, our regional Green Community Coordinator, for further advice. It was noted that Ipswich was the first in our region to construct two wind turbines and that they are now looking for other conservation opportunities. **Mr. Myers** suggested that the Town may benefit from measures such as hydro and peak generation and that he will research this.

Mass Power Forward (MPF): **Ms. Stout-Saunders** summarized a webinar attended in December. MPF is a part of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network and has been formed to assist communities to develop clean energy, water and climate initiatives. Ongoing webinars, policy recommendations, state resources are being provided. Following the MPF “Local Clean Energy Checklist,” Gloucester is considered an “advanced town” based upon our clean energy accomplishments. However, some future recommendations that stand out are: solar installed on capped landfill, a new-buildings “solar-ready” ordinance, permeable paving of parking lots, composting and tree plantings. **Mr. Coogan** will follow up with the DPW concerning a solar ordinance. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** will keep us updated as MPF resources are provided.

The North Shore Technology Council: **Ms. Wheeler** attended a presentation on January 11 concerning the greening of the ISO New England power grid. (ISO New England is an independent regional transmission organization serving New England states.) It was noted that New England’s generation fleet is changing rapidly as older coal, oil and nuclear plants are retiring and investments in natural gas-fired generation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy resources are having impacts on system planning and operations. Transmission will be required to connect resources to load centers in

New England. **Mr. Myers** mentioned a possible comparison to the Maine/Littoral/Yale wind project wheeling power through ISO.

Hodgkins Cove: **Ms. Brayton** has been attending a U-Mass Amherst Special Seminar Series, discussing options for the future of the Marine Lab at Hodgkins Cove. This three part series (the third being Feb. 2) is open to the public from noon to 1:00pm at the Lanesville Community Center. She explained that such topics of interest to the CEC include coastal resilience, sea level rise, and changes in the ocean environment, that are likely related to climate change, are all being considered as part of planning for the future direction of the marine station. **Mr. Myers** mentioned that research into harvesting tidal energy might be a viable project for this facility, similar to work being done by Littoral Power Systems, New Bedford for U-Mass Dartmouth.

Energy Storage Technology: **Mr. Myers** attended a conference that included a presentation by Green Charge Technologies (hdqtr. Santa Clara, CA <http://www.greencharge.net>) discussing a battery storage system for the Town of Sterling, MA that will provide power outage and emergency backup power for certain Town facilities. It was noted that Sterling is deemed a Municipal Light Plant community similar to the Town of Ipswich and **Mr. Myers** thought this technology may be of interest to Ipswich. **Mr. Coogan** will forward contact information to Ipswich. It was speculated as to whether energy storage could be of benefit to the City in the event a time-of-use rate plan is implemented by National Grid. Energy storage would allow a shifting of energy usage to partial-peak or off-peak hours (aka peak shaving). **Mr. Coogan** pointed out that this technology is new; **Ms. Wheeler** mentioned up to 25-year contracts are required for economic feasibility; **Mr. Myers** commented energy storage is being supported in Massachusetts. Additional information can be viewed at <http://www.cleangroup.org/sterling-energy-storage-project> and <http://www.greencharge.net/>.

Guest Presentation

350.org is an international climate action network with US chapters. The number 350 refers to climate safety: goal is to reduce the CO2 in the atmosphere from greater than 400 parts per million to below 350. **Mses. Hart and Nash** are Gloucester residents and members of 350MA.org North Shore Chapter. They are requesting that the City pass an ordinance to require the repair of gas leaks (approx. 39) within the City boundaries which are not being addressed by National Grid. (See www.heetma.org for gas leak details.) A City ordinance could create incentives to repair leaks and penalties for unrepaired leaks. Boston is the first Mass. municipality to draft such an ordinance including a provision which conditions the installation of new gas facilities or the repair of old, leaking gas facilities. They provided copy of an ordinance for the City of Boston for the management and elimination of natural gas leaks. **Mr. McGeary** summarized the City's legislative process for presenting such a proposal to the City Council. The City Council would propose the ordinance; the City Attorney would review it, followed by a City Council hearing and vote, with approval by the Mayor as the last step. During this process, the CEC could study the proposed ordinance and make a report or recommendations on it. It was suggested that **Mses. Hart and Nash** first approach their Ward Councilor for assistance in drafting an ordinance.

Mr. Coogan and **Ms. Brayton** stated that during 2016 the City's DPW participated in a study sponsored by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) and Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) to develop best practices for roadwork planning, utility coordination, and surveying natural gas leaks. The City was not chosen by MAPC to further participate in the program. **Mr. Coogan** will follow up with **Mike Hale**, Director of DPW to determine our next steps. **Mr. Coogan** will advise **Mses. Hart and Nash** of a contact at MAPC. **Mr. McGeary** suggested that CEC should research what other comparable communities are doing to encourage gas leak repairs.

Staff and Member Reports/Updates/Discussion

1. Community Electric Aggregation: **Mr. Coogan** reported that we are still awaiting a notice to proceed from the DPU. Once received, we will meet with Good Energy to go over pricing. A website and draft of marketing materials have been set up. He will follow up with some of the other cities in the queue to find out if they have obtained a DPU notice. A letter from the Mayor to DPU will be considered.

2. National Grid (NGrid) 2017 Community Initiative: **Mr. Coogan, Mr. Sicuranza** (City Dir. Of Communications), **Mses. Brayton, Stout-Saunders and Wheeler**, and **Sue Hoague** of TownGreen 2025 attended NGrid's program presentation to the municipalities accepted into this year's program which runs January 15 thru December 31, 2017. The City's potential incentive under the program is \$41,000 based upon goals set for the number of home energy assessments and residential energy efficiency measures completed. A startup bonus of \$5300 is immediately available for launching the program. It was noted that this is strictly a residential program, including multi-family dwellings with less than five units; condominiums, businesses and income-eligible properties may qualify under other MassSave programs. NGrid has made available (at no charge) the services of KSV ad agency that has a wealth of marketing material and social media guidelines from which to choose; and ClearResults, the lead vendor for NGrid, will supply collateral material, videos, and conduct selective inspection services of work completed. One suggestion for a ClearResults promotional video would be of an actual home energy audit in Gloucester. The aforementioned individuals will meet on Feb. 2 to discuss specifics of the program roll out such as identifying who will be responsible for the various promotional events and workshops. **Ms. Brayton** has requested that promotional material for this program include the services available through Action Inc. since many residents may be income-eligible for free and comprehensive Fuel and Conservation Services through this local Community Action Program (CAP) agency.

Ms. Brayton noted that she had had concerns that our NGrid goals might be set too high unless the target numbers took into account the large amount of energy efficiency work already done through Action Energy programs. NGrid's **Delena Diaz** assured the training program attendees that this issue was addressed when the goals were set. **Ms. Brayton** later learned that **Ms. Diaz** already has a working relationship with staff at Action Inc. As required by regulations, MassSave will continue to refer any potentially income-eligible customers to Action and other CAP agencies for fuel assistance and energy efficiency services. The primary way MassSave identifies a customer's potential income eligibility is by noting a Low Income residential discount rate designation on the billing account. Without this designation already in place, it is more difficult to know if the customer might be eligible, and so it is important for MassSave staff to make CAP agency information available in any case.

3. Green Communities Program (GC): **Mr. Coogan** reported that our preliminary December annual report to GC indicates that the City has met the original 20% energy reduction program goal. The next funding round is to supplement proposed projects at the police station such as a new boiler, roof, building-envelop and HVAC upgrades, and a lighting retrofit at the City Hall Annex, Pond Road. Specifics will be coordinated with the DPW.

Mr. McGeary asked about the outdoor LED lighting at City schools, parks, playgrounds. **Mr. Coogan** stated Stage Fort Park, the High School and Middle School were completed. There may be future grants for LED retrofits such as at the Veterans School. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** asked if the High School roof repair could incorporate a solar installation. **Mr. Coogan** noted that timing was not ideal given our other commitments and the upcoming Green Communities deadline.

Ongoing and New Business

Mr. Myers: Further discussion regarding Littoral Power and tidal energy technology that the City may want to explore, as example, off of the Breakwater. However, it was commented that there have been some negative comments from residents to pursue tidal energy. A paper written by Damon Cummings (a member of the City's Coastal Resilience Study) may be of interest (See <http://bit.ly/2j2SZiV>). **Mr. Myers** suggested that perhaps Maritime Gloucester or Endicott College may have an interest. CEC members unanimously agreed to table pursuing this technology due to other commitments. **Mr. Myers** will continue to research on his own.

Solar Roofs: **Mr. Myers** mentioned that Cazeault Solar will be installing solar shingles and this is the first such project on Cape Ann.

Anaerobic Digesters: **Mr. Myers** determined that this technology will not work using only fish waste. He will research further; perhaps contact **Debra Darby** a local expert who gave a presentation to the CEC in 2015.

Wind turbines: **Mr. Myers** speculated as to why we do not construct more. Our Net Metering Agreement under the existing turbines requires further review. **Mr. Kiely** suggested he would like to delve into the details, review the Gloucester Turbine project documents, and table this topic for our next meeting. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** will forward to him and **Ms. Wheeler** a net metering memorandum from Mass Energy. **Ms. Brayton** pointed out a video of this project made by CATV of a presentation done in 2013 at the Sawyer Free entitled "Wind Turbines 101" can be accessed at <http://evergreen.noblenet.org/eg/opac/record/3346820?fg%3Abasic=;locg=18;qtype=keyword;query=Wind%20Turbines%20101>.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: **Ms. Brayton** commented that the parking spaces are not marked well. **Mr. Coogan** commented that this issue can be posted by anyone on the City's website at Citizen Requests powered by "SeeClick Fix".

Action Items:

February 2, 2017 NGrid Community Initiative Meeting, 2pm, City Hall, 1st Floor Conf. Room, Dale Avenue

Tidal Energy, Energy Storage, Anaerobic Digesters – **Mr. Myers** will research

Wind Turbine Documentation review – **Mr. Kiely**

Gas Leaks: send MAPC information to 350.org – **Mr. Coogan**

Handouts: 350.org: City of Boston Ordinance Regarding Management and Elimination of Natural Gas Leaks

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 23, 2017, 7:30pm, City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room, Dale Avenue.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders