

MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING
February 23, 2017
City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Dale Avenue
(Approved at meeting of June 22, 2017)

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

Staff: Matt Coogan

Guests: Tom Mikus and Steve Wood, Rockport Clean Community Task Force

Public: Suzanne Altenburger

The meeting was called to order by **Ms. Wheeler** at 7:32 pm.

Roll Call Vote: requested by **Mr. McGeary** concerning his attendance of this meeting by telephone. All members present verbally consented.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Wheeler had some additional items to add to the Minutes of January 26, 2017, previously forwarded to the members, which she verbally presented. Upon a motion by **Ms. Brayton**, seconded by **Mr. Moskal**, the Minutes were then unanimously approved, as amended, by a Roll Call Vote.

Member News:

Gas pipeline leaks: **Mr. Moskal** stated that the State will be issuing rules for addressing the procedures for mitigating leaks and that it would be in our interest to wait for these before the City takes any further action.

Energy Storage: **Mr. McGeary** mentioned a California firm known as Green Charge that provides energy storage systems/solutions that may be of interest. He and **Mr. Myers** will investigate further. **Mr. McGeary** will review the City's wind turbine contracts for any conflicts. **Mr. Kiely** is also reviewing as requested in CEC meeting January 26, 2017.

Proposed Massachusetts Energy Bill (HD 2049): **Ms. Brayton** mentioned this bill proposed by Sen. Marc Pacheco which is also a Massachusetts Sierra Club legislative priority for 2017. She will continue to follow this Bill.

Public: Suzanne Altenburger explained technology known as "high pressure electrolysis storing of compressed hydro energy." Her thought was a Cape Ann pilot project for perhaps additional wind turbines to store hydrogen gas that could be converted to electricity and then used to supply low income residents. **Mr. McGeary** mentioned a recent article: <https://commonwealthmagazine.org/February-23-2017-Back-Story-Clean-Energy-Intrigue-Alleged-Bruce-Mohl/>, discussing hydro and wind technology which **Ms. Wheeler** will circulate to CEC Members.

Mr. Myers commented that, similar to the South Shore, we have significant wind opportunities that should be explored and that overall there should be some relevance since Gloucester is a seaport. However, **Mr. Moskal** and **Ms. Brayton** pointed out that this is not part of the CEC's Charter nor our

Strategic Plan. Mr. Myers responded that he had voted for the Charter and the Strategic Plan because it included latitude for the CEC to address clean energy issues affecting the City other than municipal building electricity consumption. **Ms. Brayton** stated that she agreed that there is intentional leeway built into the Strategic Plan to allow for unforeseen opportunities. However she also expressed two basic concerns. First, she noted that Ms. Altenburger's public comment (which is, by CEC policy, is to be limited to 5 minutes unless approved in advance by the CEC) went far longer and that the meeting had already gone on for 45 minutes without the official agenda being addressed at all. She further noted that over the past several years Ms. Altenburger has had a pattern of presenting her particular business interests at length even despite objections from members and decisions to table further discussions indefinitely. (Documented in previous minutes.) Ms Brayton said that it was situations like these that underscored the reasons for the Strategic Plan and the need to stay focused to accomplish goals. Secondly, **Ms. Brayton** stated that she too had voted somewhat reluctantly on including marketing endeavors in the Strategic Plan since these programs are very labor-intensive for a 7 member volunteer commission. Since it was the will of the CEC to carry out these projects, however, she stated she is participating fully in carrying them out. She expressed concern, however, that only 3 members were able to attend National Grid's training program.

Ms. Altenburger also brought up the New England Fisheries Council as it relates to a green fishing fleet and her previous presentation in September 2016.

Staff and Member Reports/Updates/Discussions.

Community Electric Aggregation: The City has received the DPU notice to proceed. Good Energy's assessment based on current National Grid Pricing is that we should delay the program. **Mr. Coogan** will determine if the City's previous program approval would be affected by a delay. Pricing will be reviewed again for the Fall 2017.

Gloucester Energy Challenge (National Grid 2017 Community Initiative): Mses. Brayton, Stout-Saunders, Wheeler, Hoague and Messrs. Coogan, Kiely and Sicuranza met on February 2. In summary:

Coogan and **Sicuranza** will roll out all social media communications, mailings, press releases and coordination of collateral materials being supplied by National Grid, and a video of an energy audit of the Mayor's home. National Grid will do 2-3 mailings.

Planned Events include:

- April 29 Sustainability Energy Fair led by TownGreen 2025. Mass Save, Action Inc, the CEC, and Clear Results are intending to have a table. **Mr. Coogan** will be doing a presentation.
- Workshops: Tentatively May 25 and September 28 - CEC with possible assistance from Mass Save and National Grid; June and October TownGreen 2025, **Dick Prouty** will coordinate. Venues to be determined.
- Farmer's Market: Tabling a few weeks throughout the season
- Clear Results may be available but require 100+ attendees; Home Works another possibility.

- Community Events such as Fiesta, City Block Party, Schooner Fest... to be determined. **Mr. Myers** thought some should be relative to real estate interests.

Green Communities: Application for next funding is due Friday, February 3. DPW's focus is the police station where Siemens has completed a walk-through audit. Maximum available is \$250,000. Mattos Field was discussed but the lights have been out too long to determine a baseline for energy savings; location is not considered suitable for solar lighting.

Ongoing and New Business

Housing Production Plan: **Mr. Coogan** stated that it is now available on the website and available for comment. There have been two public meetings. The Planning Board and City Council will have further meetings throughout March.

High School Roof: Since the roof will be undergoing extensive repairs, **Ms. Stout-Saunders** questioned if this would be a good opportunity to include a rooftop solar array. Due to timing (and the terms of our wind turbine contract), this may not be feasible. To be explored further. Perhaps such a project could be useful for a thermal/pre-heat water project. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** will attend the next GHS Solar Roof Committee meeting.

C-Pace: Per **Mr. Myers**, guidelines from Mass Development will probably not be available until June.

Rockport Clean Community Task Force: Extending their charter to include residential, educational and environmental initiatives. Rockport will assist with the Sustainability Energy Fair and other future Gloucester programs when possible.

Action Items:

Gloucester Energy Challenge: Confirm dates, venues, participants – **Mr. Coogan and TownGreen 2025**
High School Roof – **Ms. Stout-Saunders** follow up
Wind Turbine Contract – **Messrs. Kiely, McGeary and Myers** reviewing
Tidal Energy, Energy Storage, Anaerobic Digesters - ongoing research, **Mr. Myers** (CEC 1-26-17)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2017, 7:30pm, City Hall, Dale Avenue. Conference room to be advised.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout Saunders