

## Energy Commission Meeting 2/23/10

**In Attendance:** Sam Cleaves, Tom Balf, John Moskul, Linda Brayton, Susan St. Pierre and Leiran Biton

### Discussion items:

- Minutes from January meeting were approved.
- New Clean Energy Project Manager Susan St. Pierre was introduced. Welcome Susan! Working out of Community Development, she will be staffing all of the CEC meetings now and serve as our liaison to the City.
- The Commission has learned that none of its three < 35,000 ARRA grant applications were awarded funding by DOER. The members discussed what we might take away from this disappointment; what we might learn for future grant applications and what strategies and steps we might take now. There is a possibility that some communities will not be able to use their grant money, and in that event DOER will go back to the original pool of applications.
- Outreach and Education – Sam reported on the recent Stretch Code “kick off” event. About 40 people attended, good questions were asked and presenter Mike Berry’s presentation was well-received. Questions that couldn’t be answered were collected, and answers will be emailed and also given out at the next event, which will very likely to be held on 3/19/10 at 7 a.m. at the Building Center. It will be particularly targeted to builders. Thanks to Jill Buchanan, the first workshop is to be on Cape Ann TV on 2/24/10 at 8:30 p.m. and again on 3/1/10 at 5:30 p.m.
- Leiran Biton, ICF consultant for the Green Communities Program, gave a presentation on the City of Gloucester’s Green Communities Action Plan, which was completed on Feb. 8, 2010 and distributed to CEC members and City officials. Gloucester has one year from the date of this plan to achieve Green Community status. The Action Plan delineates progress to date and has detailed guidance and timelines for completing the 5 requirements.
- John Moskul continues to make progress gathering data for the baseline inventory. He noted that he needs, in particular, information on waste water and water treatment. He recently attended the Mass Energy Insight training. A discussion ensued as to the merits of various methods for gathering information. Leiran said that given likely delays with National Grid audits, we should not wait but rather move forward using Mass. Energy Insight.
- To apply for the first round of Green Community funding (deadline of May 28<sup>th</sup>) a community must be certified as a Green Community by May 14<sup>th</sup>. The consensus was that after the next workshop is held we will have a better idea as to whether passing the stretch code is feasible by that time. Meanwhile, however, members will be considering possible projects for which to apply for funding either for the first round or the next. Leiran said that it is anticipated that there will be \$7M available for the first round and that around 10 - 20 communities will likely apply for the first round. A lively discussion ensued about the possible projects that might be eligible for funding, doable, and have

the greatest positive impact for Gloucester. Consensus was that asking Meg Lusardi to advise us would be helpful to our deliberations in the future.

- Tom and Linda B. reported briefly on their research on street-lighting, and Tom passed out a handout on their activities to date and to come. It is too soon, they feel, to attempt to make any judgment as to whether or not the streetlights should be purchased, either all or in part. They will continue to compile their findings for reporting to City Council next month.

**Action Items:**

- Susan will speak with Sarah to ask if she would contact the mayor re: next steps now that we know that the 3 grant applications weren't approved and to ask her if a letter(s) to Congressman Tierney, Senator Tarr and/or Rep. Ferrante asking for guidance and assistance might be in order.
- Susan will get information on energy consumption for waste water and water treatment for John and the baseline inventory. She will also find out if the pumping stations get the electricity used from nearby streetlight poles
- Leiran will forward Clean Air, Cool Planet tool to Susan for distribution.
- Susan will contact Mark Cole to facilitate gathering information for the GC fuel efficient vehicle requirement and the related policy creation.
- Susan will contact Bob Hastings, Chamber of Commerce, to include him further in the Stretch Code process.
- Tom will provide Susan with copies of the ARRA grant applications and O'Maley and High School audits.
- Tom will work with Susan on drafting a letter from the mayor to National Grid requesting specific streetlight information.