

## **Energy Commission Meeting 4/27/10**

### **In Attendance:**

Commission Members: Sam Cleaves, Linda Brayton, Linda Stout-Sanders, Jill Buchanan, Tom Balf , John Moskal

City staff: Greg Catamartori, Susan St. Pierre

Public attendee: Horace Turner

### **Discussion Items:**

- Minutes from March meeting were approved.
- Sam reported on the recent meeting with the mayor that he, Michelle and Linda Brayton attended. The consensus was that focus should be on increasing the number of municipal renewable projects. This strategy includes evaluating the municipal wind resources, so that when grant or other funding opportunities arise we are ready to take advantage of those opportunities.
- Susan St. Pierre reported progress on an application to the Commonwealth Wind program, which works with contractors to provide free assessments, feasibility studies, and design and construction for selected sites. Using the sites that had been identified in a 2005 assessment as a starting point, the Babson/Varian site was identified as the best first location for a feasibility study. Susan is working on the applications, which are due on May 4 . If approved, the study would be completed by July, and the next step would be design and construction. The mayor and councilor Toby have both drafted letters of support for the project. Susan also reported that she is working on a separate application for Clean Energy Center (Boreal) to do site assessments for Magnolia Woods and Bond Hill, two additional sites that are thought to have good potential as municipal wind turbine sites. These sites had not been included in the original 2005 assessment, because at that time net metering was not available for Gloucester. The submission for site assessment can be submitted at any time and is reviewed by CEC on a rolling basis.
- Gregg Cademartori reported that the City Council approved an amendment to the city's zoning to the effect that Gloucester now allows wind turbines to be sited by Special Permit, on large residential lots in some areas, including West Gloucester.
- The committee reviewed our status with regards to adoption of the Green Communities Act. Susan's helpful chart has clearly identified outstanding items, and target dates for completion.
- The Communications subcommittee will host a final workshop, this one focused on explaining the Stretch Code and Green Communities Act to homeowners and decision makers. Jill, Michelle, Sam, Tom, Linda B. and Linda S. will serve on the subcommittee. This workshop will have a broader approach to explaining Green Communities Act/Stretch code, with more emphasis on case studies in communities that have already adopted it. We will have a subcommittee meeting in early may to review plans and associated tasks.

- Tom reported on the review of streetlight improvements. Despite continued attempts to clarify street light ownership and options for purchasing these lights, National Grid has been unresponsive. While we have the option of hiring a consultant to obtain this information, it was agreed that for the time being, at least, there are higher energy priorities to pursue that will have greater long-term positive impact than this. Sam or Tom will report these findings at our next city council presentation.

**Action Items:**

- John will complete gathering outstanding information related to municipal energy use.
- The communications subcommittee will meet in early may to nail down logistics for the last workshop. We will also identify key attendees and assign invitation tasks to the committee members.