

MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING
June 22, 2017
City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room, Dale Avenue
(Approved unanimously at meeting of December 20, 2017)

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

Staff: Matt Coogan

Guests: To discuss the Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library (SFL) proposed renovations and redesign: Deborah Cramer, Environmental Solutions Initiative-MIT; Tim Greiner of Pure Strategies; Wendy Quinones (Note, Paul McGeary is a member of the SFL Building Committee.)

Public: Jennifer Holmgren; Tom Mikus, Rockport Clean Community Task Force

The meeting was called to order by **Ms. Wheeler** at 7:40 pm.

Roll Call Vote: **Mr. McGeary** joined the meeting at approximately 8pm by telephone. All members present verbally consented.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of February 23, 2017, were unanimously approved. Minutes remain outstanding are for April 27 and the May 25, 2017 which was the Gloucester Challenge panel discussion presented at West Parish School.

Public Comment: **Ms. Holmgren** stated that she is seeking a Councilor-At-Large seat, that she has been following the Clean Energy Commission for several years, and that she is a Library Corporator. She recently viewed the Democratic Dialogue program which **Coogan** and **Wheeler** presented on CATV* concerning Gloucester's Clean Energy accomplishments and future plans; she is offering her assistance where needed. *See <http://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T01896%video=275044>.)

Member News:

Carbon Pricing: Proposed bills in the Massachusetts legislature that focus on putting a fee (tax) on carbon pollution. Carbon Pricing Bills to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (H1726 and S-1821): **Mr. Myers** attended an abbreviated presentation at the Essex Technical High School moderated by **Senator Marc Pacheco**. (A full hearing was held at the State House on June 20.) The contention is that greenhouse gas reduction milestones for 2020, 2030 and 2050 established by **Governor Baker** are not achievable without enacting a carbon tax. **Mr. Pacheco** said **Gov. Baker** had promised to meet those milestones, so **Mr. Pacheco** wants legislation that will require that if milestones are not met, a carbon-tax will automatically kick in. The 350.org organization is already advocating for the carbon tax. **Mr. Myers** will continue to follow and gather more information. **Mr. Kiely** commented that many corporations such as Wal-Mart, Apple and Microsoft factor a "carbon tax" into the internal assessment of new initiatives and strategies. Most Fortune 500 companies also issue annual "sustainability" reports

(including data on their efforts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions), and are adopting environmental and “social impact” metrics for their business to communicate to investors and stakeholders. **Ms. Stout** mentioned that California operates under a Cap and Trade program to achieve greenhouse gas pollution goals but the program is up for extension to go beyond 2020.

Gas Leaks: **Ms. Brayton** mentioned that 350.org has drafted a resolution for the City Council to address gas leaks.

Staff and Member Reports/Updates/Discussion

1.Sawyer Free Library: The Guests have approached the Clean Energy Commission to obtain guidance specific to proposed renovations of the SFL that could be achieved utilizing sustainable energy conservations/efficiency/renewable measures and with a goal of eliminating fossil fuel consumption to become a carbon neutral facility. CEC’s role relative to the SFL project would be to make recommendations to the Mayor/City Council. The SFL has applied for a Grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) for infrastructure modernization/ improvement, upgrading of programming and resources. The Grant will cover approximately 40% of the estimated \$15-17 million project. SFL is working with the community for fundraising outreach required to secure the remaining project funds which must be committed prior to start of construction.

The MBLC offers Green Library Incentives to help offset the cost of incorporation of energy efficient/sustainable energy measures, and the MBLC grant will include some funds for feasibility studies, including energy efficiency. Projects that attain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification will receive 2-3.5% of the Grant award. SFL has identified multiple areas of design renovation such as LED lighting, solar sensitive fixtures, window upgrades, and modernization of climate, air quality and HVAC systems. The SFL Building Committee has been given a list of certain “sustainable building” engineers and consultants. **Mr. Coogan** advised that because the City is the rate-payer for SFL electricity, the City could apply for Green-Community funding to pay for on-bill financing of SFL energy efficiency measures. **Mr. Greiner** noted that there is a difference between LEED-certified and carbon neutral. LEED is a multi-attribute rating, (not just energy), while net-zero carbon emissions is just about energy. **Ms. Stout** asked if the wind turbines offset the electric usage of the SFL, and **Mr. Coogan** replied that the Library was included on the Schedule Z listing of municipal buildings using net metering credits from the turbines.

The SFL project is on a MBLC waitlist. Grants are awarded on a rolling basis as State funds become available. A long timeline is anticipated. The SFL Building Committee and the SFL Trustees will be discussing the potential of carbon neutrality. In the discussions about the Library design thus far, there has been a range of ideas about how to balance energy efficiency and architectural preservation while meeting the SFL’s program goals. **Mr. McGearry** suggested the possibility of a middle ground that would honor the existing SFL building design while providing a significant improvement in energy efficiency, and address the many community goals and values.

The **CEC** will investigate opportunities and **Mr. Coogan** will look into other grant money that may be available. The SFL Building Committee meets once a month on Wednesday. The Public is welcome. **Ms.**

Quinones said that the Library Building Committee will do major outreach before the City receives design funds, and **Mr. McGeary** said the Committee will have architects scope out the cost of achieving carbon neutrality so that this can be considered in the process of deciding on final design.

2. Gloucester Energy Challenge: CEC, Action Inc. and TownGreen 2025 promotion of local participation in MassSave free home energy audits through a National Grid Community Initiative. As of the end of May, 222 home energy audits have been completed. Details of the program can be viewed at www.gloucestergreen.org along with a video of a recent audit of the Mayor's home (already viewed by over 1000 people). **Mr. Coogan** promoted the program on radio 104.9 at a June 14 broadcast on Harbor Loop. Additional promotion of the Program: The Harbor Walk Movie Jaws is being sponsored by National Grid; tabling on various dates at the Farmer's Market; **McGeary** and **Brayton** tabling at an upcoming wind turbine event; Sustainability Fair; **McGeary** suggested yard signs; **Mr. Greiner** suggested contacting local community associations and said he would reach out to the Magnolia Community Association; National Grid will do further mailings and/or emails to its customers.

Slow takeoff of the Program may be due to Audit lead time averaging 34 days, lack of audience at the CEC Program presentation in May at West Parish School; and **Ms. Brayton** mentioned that Action Inc. has not received as many inquiries as usual this season which may be due to last year's mild winter and lower heating costs, and to the large number of low-income households that have already had efficiency upgrades done by Action. The slow take off of the Gloucester Energy Challenge may also be related to residents having negative experiences with Next Step Living and its closing.

The CEC unanimously agreed to send a letter to the City Council requesting Councilors' assistance by publicizing the program in their emails to constituents and at any upcoming Ward meetings. **Mr. Prouty** will reach out to local contractors to encourage them to help in publicizing the Gloucester Energy Challenge.

The City may earn up to a \$41,000 if 1400 home audits are completed. **Coogan** suggests we start to engage the public as to how this money could be spent on other energy related projects.

3. Green Community Grant Award: **Ms. Stout** attended the most recent round of Green Communities grants at the State House and presented a Certificate to **Mr. Coogan** in the amount of \$207,443 for Retro Commission at the High School, O'Malley Middle School and Beeman Elementary along with an energy management system at Beeman. \$14 million awarded to 72 cities. Very well attended; a good 100 people plus about a dozen state reps. There are now 185 communities in the Green Communities program. **Mr. Coogan** stated that the City is still working toward meeting its 20% energy reduction goal under the Green Community guidelines.

Community Aggregation: Our goal is still to participate in the Fall.

4. Harbor View Affordable Housing Project: **Ms. Brayton** distributed a memo she sent to **Peggy Hegarty-Steck** of Action Inc. and **Ms. Steck's** reply (May 15 and 16 2017 respectively) concerning the use of solar or other renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures for the new Harbor View (former Cameron's site) project. In summary, **Ms. Steck** stated that the architect specializes in green

building design and that the goal is to make the building as green as possible, including consideration of renewable energy measures. More details will be available after funding approval scheduled for the Fall of 2018.

Ms. Brayton asked if Green Community's money is available for housing projects. **Mr. Coogan** will look into, but we first need to meet our 20% goal.

5. **Energy Storage: Messrs. McGeary and Myers** are investigating. To be discussed at our next meeting.

6. **Other: Community Assessed Clean Energy finance program (C-Pace):** Waiting for Mass Development issuance of program guidelines. In the meantime, **Mr. Myers** has been working with **Bill Tobin** of Rockport who will be discussing the program with Rockport's Treasurer. **Mr. Coogan** will follow up with MAPC and Gloucester's Treasurer.

Action Items:

Approval of outstanding meeting minutes: **CEC Members**

Carbon Pricing: **Mr. Myers**

Gas Leaks: **Ms. Brayton** with 350.org

SFL Building Committee: Ongoing, CEC Members

Energy Storage: Ongoing, **Messrs. McGeary and Myers**

C-Pace: **Mr. Coogan** to follow up with City Treasurer and MAPC

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 26, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders