

Minutes of the meeting of the Gloucester Clean Energy Commission

Thursday, June 28, 2018, 7:30 PM
City Hall, 9 Dale Ave., 1st Floor Conference Room

Attending: Commissioners: Candace Wheeler, chair; Mike Nolan, Linda Stout-Saunders, Linda Brayton, Paul McGeary, Debra Darby

Staff: Jeremy Price

Public: Tom Mikus, Susanne Altenburger

Ms. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2018 were unanimously approved with changes to be added by Ms. Wheeler.

1) Continue update of CEC Strategic Plan

The draft strategic plan for FY 2019 was discussed. The amended strategic plan is reproduced here:

Gloucester Clean Energy Commission Strategy and goals for Fiscal Year 2019

CEC Strategy Statement for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018

From 2011 to 2017, the CEC focused on tracking progress of the City's Green Community plan, including helping to identify municipal energy efficiency opportunities, providing support to City leaders, departments, and staff for municipal energy reduction projects, and helping to identify funding opportunities. Many of these activities are now fully integrated into the City Administration (led by the departments of Community Development and Public Works). During the next year, the CEC will augment City efforts by focusing on the following:

- **Advise.** Continue to provide support to City leaders and departments on energy efficiency and clean energy topics, and engaging City leaders in discussions on ordinances and plans that could progress clean energy goals over the next decade.
- **Catalyze.** Operate as a coordinating and support mechanism for private clean energy efforts in the City.
- **Lead.** Identify and explain tools and programs that can help drive behavior change viz. municipal energy usage (e.g., technologies to better understand energy consumption patterns, which can inform change efforts; adoption of measures to incent change; etc.)
- **Inform.** Engage and inform the community -- including city government, staff, committees and residents -- on public and private efforts to improve sustainability locally, including municipal achievements measured against Green Community Goals, climate change and coastal resilience, and opportunities for transitioning to cleaner energy sources. Channels for outreach include the commission's website, regular reports from the commission, articles and social media, and coordinating with and supporting other organizations hosting programs and events.

Within the context of this strategy, the CEC will prioritize the following issues during Fiscal Year 2019:

1. Work with city departments--particularly the Department of Public Works and Community Development to expand Gloucester's access to and use of Green Communities funds and other grant programs as well as legislative opportunities to increase energy efficiency.
2. Work with Good Energy LLC to implement energy aggregation programs for residential and commercial energy users.
3. Using resources from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the SolSmart program, assist the City in developing a solar ordinance to encourage generation of electric power by solar energy.
4. Continue to assist in the MassSave/Gloucester Green challenge to encourage homeowners to complete energy audits and adopt energy-saving strategies and practices.
5. Work with TownGreen 2025 to help implement a community solar initiative including assessing the impact of the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program's caps on development of community solar and conducting public education on solar energy and the solar challenge
6. Work to publicize and help implement Commercial property-assessed clean energy (CPACE) financing for energy improvements for businesses.
7. Work to ensure that the renovation or reconstruction of the Sawyer Free Library meets the highest standards for energy efficiency.
8. Establish formal relationships with City boards and commissions--especially those dealing with energy and conservation issues as part of their portfolio.
9. Continue to define our relationship with TownGreen2025 and other organizations to encourage efforts to make Gloucester carbon neutral by 2025.
10. Work to help implement Demand Response conservation measures by large electric users at times of peak usage.
11. Study whether to recommend the city switch to electrically-powered school buses.
12. In conjunction with city staff, examine potential changes to the city's building code to increase requirements for energy efficiency and encourage the use of renewable energy.
13. Study the use of energy storage devices (batteries and fuel cells) in municipal buildings and infrastructure (micro-grids) in light of Gloucester's particular vulnerability, including possible isolation, due to extreme weather conditions, sea level rise, and other disasters.
14. Investigate opportunities for tidal energy in the coastal waters off Gloucester and monitor potential for offshore wind projects.
15. Use performance analytics and data to influence the broader community engagement in energy efficiency, stimulate new ideas and innovation, and seek innovations that could be usefully scaled.
16. Improve the CEC web site to make it more informative for citizens and easier to navigate and enhance our social media presence.
17. Review and evaluate other opportunities as they arise. Make recommendations for action as appropriate (e.g. legislative action, grant opportunities, etc.)
18. Submit an annual report to the office of the Mayor with our goals and accomplishments.
19. Encourage energy conservation by business and industry, including encouraging anaerobic digestion of waste, increased solar power generation, increased lighting efficiency and the planting of trees. In particular work with the Gloucester Harbor Community Development corporation to ensure progress among waterfront industries.

20. Work to ensure that new development are maximally energy efficient and make most use of energy efficient technology.
21. Encourage efforts at reforestation, particularly in the tropics as a method of sequestering atmospheric carbon dioxide.

2018 COMMISSION MEMBERS

Candace Wheeler, Chair

Linda Brayton

Debra Darby

Paul McGeary, vice chair

John Moskal

Mike Nolan

Linda Stout-Saunders

Commission members and staff were assigned responsibility for specific items arising out of the Strategic Plan:

- **Ms. Stout-Saunders** will take the lead on item 5 (CPACE implementation), Item 13: (modifications to the city's building code),.
- **Ms. Stout-Saunders and Ms. Darby:** Item 19 (encouraging conservation by business and industry)
- **Ms. Brayton:** Item 7 (grant and legislative opportunities), Item 16 (improving our web site and social media presence)
- **Ms. Brayton and Ms. Wheeler:** Item 9 (Joint efforts with Town Green 2025).
- **Mr. McGeary:** Item 4 (Work with Town Green 2025 on community solar), Item 6 (ensuring a new library building is maximally energy and climate efficient), Item 12 (Electrically-powered school buses),
- **Mr. Price:** Item 7 (expanding access to grants), Item 16 (improving our web site and social media presence)
- Note add mike nola to new item 13.

2) *Joint efforts with TownGreen2025*

It was noted that Town Green's Energy Fair will be held in September. The commission decided to participate and will work with **Mr. Price** on the nature of our presence there.

3) *Community Solar Project status*

Mr. McGeary reported that the project was ongoing. Some initial participants have dropped out, but St. John's Episcopal Church is working with Town Green and Resonant Energy of Boston to create a solar installation to serve the church and perhaps for a core organization which could develop over time into a true community solar project.

4) *Other discussion*

Ms. Brayton remarked that she was concerned that participation in the MassSave program was yielding small results considering the time and effort spent on it and mixed reviews from the community.

Ms. Brayton noted that under the Green Communities program the city needed to complete the energy efficiency enhancements at the public schools for which funds had been received, prior to applying for additional funds. **Mr. Price** noted that the next opportunity to apply for

Green Community funds would be in March 2019, and he said he believed the work in the schools would be completed by that time.

Ms. Stout-Saunders asked that commission members consider being our "representative" to various boards and commissions and **Ms. Wheeler** asked that members indicate for our next meeting which boards or commissions they would like to liaise with.

5) Public comment

Ms. Altenburger remarked that in her view no city agency was specifically tasked with ensuring that the fishing fleet was energy efficient and provided the commission with a handout entitled "Why are we letting MA's Fishing Fleet and Harbors be ruined?".

6) Other action items

- **Mr. Price:** Provide commission members a copy of Stefano Loretto's recent presentation to the City Council.

7) Next meeting

The commission's next meeting will be on **Aug. 9, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.** in City Hall.

8) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul M. McGeary