

Minutes of the of the Gloucester Clean Energy Commission
Aug. 9, 2018
City Hall

(Approved at meeting of 9/27/2018)

Attending: Candace Wheeler, chair; Commissioners: Linda Brayton, Paul McGeary, Linda Stout-Saunders, John Moskal.

Staff: Jeremy Price.

Guests: Tom Mikus, Dick Prouty.

Ms. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

The minutes of the commission meeting of June 28 were unanimously approved with changes specific to the draft strategic plan. **Mr. McGeary** will update the minutes and the strategic plan to reflect the changes and send the amended copies to **Ms. Brayton** to post to the City Clerk's website.

Member reports

CPACE update

Ms. Stout-Saunders reported that the program to allow commercial entities to finance energy improvements through betterments attached to real estate tax bills (the Commercial Property-Assessed Clean Energy program or CPACE) was still in the process of developing guidelines. **Mr. Price** is reviewing the draft guidelines issued in August 2017 and will meet with City Treasurer John Dunn discuss. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** requested attendance at this meeting.

Energy efficiency opportunities at the Fuller School project

Mr. Prouty said he had spoken with Jack Meany of the YMCA and that the Y intended to put in two solar systems--one solar thermal to heat water and another solar electric generating.

"Shave the Peak" webinar

Mr. McGeary reported on his participation in a webinar designed to raise awareness of and foster methods to reduce peak power usage. He noted that one percent of all the hours of electric usage account for more than eight percent of costs--this because at peak usage utilities must go into the open energy market to meet demand and this drives up costs. He said that MassEnergy, the sponsor of the webinar, was advocating for "smart meters" that could track energy usage by time of day to help consumers manage their electric usage better.

Joint efforts with Town Green 2025

Mr. Prouty reported that this year's Sustainability Fair will be held at the O'Maley Innovation Middle School on **Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** He said he hoped that Gloucester Green would have a table at the fair. He said the fair would have a panel to examine the potential for carbon pricing, which had been pulled out of this year's state omnibus budget bill. The keynote speaker will discuss environmental voting. He also reported that the group had had a "soft launch" of its new website.

Mr. Prouty also reported that he had attended a Community Solar Fair in Beverly. Clean energy coordinators from Salem and Beverly attended. He said Beverly Mayor Michael Cahill was an enthusiastic supporter of solar and noted that the established solar farm on the grounds of Beverly High School was being updated. Beverly has passed a resolution intending to achieve net-zero carbon footprint by 2040, he noted. He suggested the city revisit the Meister Report that has

identified potential locations for solar installation on city-owned properties to seek opportunities to further lower the city's carbon footprint. **Mr. Moskal** noted that any such installation would not be able to benefit from net-metering benefits but would have to stand on its own. **Mr. Prouty** agreed, saying that the city at minimum might receive lease payments from the developer. **Mr. Price** noted that a solar ordinance would have to be in place to make such a private solar project practical.

Community Development Department update

Mr. Price reported that so far 410 households had signed up for an energy audit out of a goal of 1,078. The MassSave program still has six months to run to achieve the goal.

He said that city participation in the SolSmart program is on hold until a solar ordinance is passed.

He said he was in the process of creating a checklist to identify city actions that had been taken towards becoming SolSmart "Gold Community." He also noted that the city had received a grant to study coastal vulnerability in the area of Gloucester High School.

Priorities for MassSave grant

Commissioners discussed how best to use the money received from MassSave for our participation in the Gloucester Green program. **Ms. Brayton** suggested a solar installation on the roof of a school, or additional electric car charging stations. **Ms. Wheeler** inquired as to whether the funds might be used to fund a program by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council to establish a carbon-usage baseline against which to measure progress in reducing carbon emissions. **Mr. Price** said he didn't think the funds could be used for that purpose. He said that first priorities for the use of the MassSave grant money were another charging station and the hiring of a summer intern.

Continued business

Partnering with city boards and commissions

Discussion of creating partnerships between individual commission members and other city boards and commissions was deferred until the September meeting. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** noted that the city's Economic Development and Industrialization Commission (EDIC) and Clean City Commission should be added to the list of boards and commissions with which to partner and that she intends to attend one of their upcoming meetings.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commission was set for Sept. 27.

Adjournment

The commission adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul McGeary

Commissioner