

MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING
March 22, 2018, City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Dale Avenue
(Approved as amended at meeting of 11/29/18)

Members Present: Candace Wheeler, Linda Brayton, Debra Darby, Paul McGeary (by phone), John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders

Public: Suzanne Altenburger, Mike Nolan (whose official appointment to the CEC is expected next week), Jennifer Holmgren City Councilor-at-Large (joined at 8:15pm)

The meeting was called to order by **Ms. Wheeler** at 7:30 pm.

Roll Call Vote: **Mr. McGeary** joined the meeting by telephone. All members present verbally consented. Further actions throughout this meeting that required a vote were conducted by a formal Roll Call vote.

Approval of Minutes: January 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

Member Reports:

Carbon Emissions Baseline Tracking: **Ms. Wheeler** reported that she and Dick Prouty of TownGreen 2025 attended a meeting with the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) who will be acting as a consultant for communities to develop (and then track) carbon emissions for the entire community, i.e. municipal, residential, commercial, industrial and institutional. Consulting cost is approximately \$30,000 requiring a 50% contribution from the City. **Mr. Moskal** pointed out that much of this data was gathered several years ago as part of our Green Community designation application although it did not include residential, and he questioned whether residential data would actually be available due to confidentiality and how useful and trackable it would be. **Ms. Brayton** commented that although this data might be helpful to Town Green 2025's purposes, it might not be a municipal priority particularly given the cost involved. **Ms. Wheeler** will set up a meeting with Greg Cademartori to include **Mr. McGeary, Mr. Moskal** and MAPC.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program: **Ms. Stout-Saunders** reported that MAPC was chosen to provide the consulting assistance to the City for this Program. Working group meetings were held 3/9 and 3/16 and a workshop scheduled for 4/12. The workshop is by invitation sent out to approximately 60 individuals. The workshop will be to identify vulnerabilities and strengths and to prioritize community actions to be determined within three categories: Environmental, Societal and Infrastructural. **Ms. Altenburger** mentioned a suggestion she had made [to the planning folks] that the anticipated new MBTA Bridge include an emergency access for vehicles as a third way in and out of the island. **Ms. Darby** mentioned her concerns for disaster response as such may relate to the Seabrook Power Plant. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** pointed out that these may come under consideration within the workshop process especially considering the wide range of invitees that include the MBTA, Mass Highway, Coast Guard and National Grid.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: Ms. Stout-Saunders attended a recent webinar concerning a group purchasing program offered through MAPC that the City may wish to register for. Registration ends early May.

Sawyer Free Library (“SFL”) Building Committee: As follow-up to the Tour of the West Parish School with members of the SFL Building Committee (with a focus on LEED Gold features of the structure designed by Dore and Whittier), **Ms. Stout-Saunders** followed up with Brad Dore concerning the LEED Certification that included a purchase of renewable energy credits that contributed to the scoring for this School to be awarded LEED Gold Certification. Mr. Dore stated that as he understands it these RECs were purchased through the school department but the actual funding of the contracts may have come via the project. The amount of the purchase was calculated based on expected energy use that was modeled by the electrical engineers. The application was ultimately for 3 points resulting from the high percentage level of green power purchased as an offset compared to expected usage over 2 years.

The question arose since this may be a means by which the Library could obtain LEED Certification for its proposed renovations. **Mr. Moskal** pointed out that the Library is a city facility getting electricity under a city (turbine) contract; and further, that the city has already adopted the stretch code. **Mr. McGeary** mentioned that some donors and grantors specifically want LEED.

Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program: **Ms. Stout-Saunders** attended a DOER webinar presented by ClearResults the program facilitator. SMART will replace the Massachusetts solar renewable energy credits (SREC II) program, is a multifaceted set of incentives including a declining block grant incentive paid on a per kilowatt-hour basis. The goal is to begin the program early this summer.

2. Progress on various programs:

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness - Cape Ann Local Action Network: **Ms. Brayton** and **Councilor Holmgren** attended a local meeting concerning coastal resilience and climate change that was presented by Kathryn Glenn from Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management. Discussions included vulnerability analyses and restoration projects that have been done, including the Little River Restoration Project that was completed in 2015, and upcoming projects such as pump station upgrades. Gloucester received a \$20,000 grant to do a municipal vulnerability study to identify where we are most vulnerable and measures that can be taken to protect public health and public safety. Information is available on the websites of Community Development, TownGreen 2025, 350.org, Mothers Out Front, Greenbelt and others. **Mr. Moskal** and **Mr. McGeary** commented that as an energy commission this may be an ancillary issue that we should discuss further while developing our next Strategic Plan.

Sol Smart: A Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) program aimed at lowering the costs of solar installations and encouraging this on a municipal level by assisting in the development of bylaws and ordinances to streamline the permitting process. **Ms. Wheeler** mentioned that **Greg Cademartori** is hoping the program will assist in the process of adding it to the city’s zoning ordinances. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** stated that at the workshop we discussed collaborating with other North Shore communities such as Beverly (who she will approach and Ipswich (who **Ms. Wheeler** will approach). There is an application process to be followed and that will probably not be pursued until **Matt Coogan’s** position is filled in April/May.

Aggregation: **Mr. Loretto** of Good Energy will attend our April 26 meeting to give us an update.

Mass Forward: **Ms. Holmgren** does not have anything new yet from Environment Massachusetts. She said she hoped to work with them and Senator Tarr on an op-ed concerning taking on a 100% renewable energy commitment and she is working with the Mayor's constituency services hoping to get the Mayor on board as well.

New Business

Earth Day: According to the Clean city website April 21 is a two hour "Great Gloucester Cleanup; **Ms. Holmgren** mentioned a "Good Harbor Beach Cleanup" scheduled for April 22. **Ms. Darby** pointed out that today, March 22, is World Water Day. This year's Earth Day theme is "plastics."

Ms. Brayton will be attending a presentation tomorrow at the High School concerning Coastal Resilience.

Action Inc. Ms/ Brayton mentioned that representatives will be filming on March 28 on home weatherization and fuel efficiency measures. She suggested it be aired on Cape Ann TV.

National Grid Initiative: The exact amount of money earned under last year's program not yet determined. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** is discussing a possible donation to "Change is Simple" curriculum program and **Ms. Wheeler** a possible donation to the TownGreen 2025 curriculum program. **Mr. Coogan** had discussed using funds for another electric vehicle charging station.

Strategic Plan: The plan was discussed using the Mass Forward Checklist as a guideline. **Mr. McGeary** commented that the Aggregation program should be the number one priority.

Public Comment: **Ms. Altenburger** inquired about the wind turbines, why they are not consistently functioning. She suggests a community dashboard be developed. **Ms. Holmgren** mentioned that an article was just being published in the Gloucester Daily Times addressing hydraulic leaks; and that **Councilor Gilman** has been researching the turbine productivity.

Next meeting: Scheduled for April 26, 2018.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Stout-Saunders