

# COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

*Meeting Minutes*  
*Thursday, March 17, 2022*

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on March 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. CSEC members present were Jerry Frenkil (Chair), Karen Gibson (Clerk), Sharon Jones, Janet Miller, Mike McDonald, and Hany Teylouni. Also present were Amanda Kohn (Sustainability Director), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Andy Puchrik, Pamela Dritt, and Cynthia Rainey (Concord School Committee).

## 1. Welcome and Call to Order

Jerry called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

## 2. Approval of minutes from Feb 17<sup>th</sup> and Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>

Karen noted there were minor clarifying edits to the February 17<sup>th</sup> minutes. Doug moved to approve the February 17<sup>th</sup> as amended. Michael seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. There were no changes to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes. Karen moved to approve the March 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes. Doug seconded. The minutes were approved with one abstention - Janet abstained since she was not present for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## 3. Chair's Update

Jerry reported that the Alcott school is in the process of replacing its boiler with a gas fired boiler. Jerry invited a representative from the school to speak to CSEC about how they came to this decision. This is the third year of a three-year process so it may be too late to effect any change at Alcott, but two other schools are in similar situations needing to replace their boilers. CSEC should understand this process to see if there is any way to influence the decision on what type of boiler to use as a replacement.

Jerry attended the Light Board meeting where they reviewed their strategic plan, prompted by Article 38, particularly around solar on municipal buildings. They reported on priorities like battery storage, but did not include distributed solar. The Light Board will have a meeting on March 30 at 7:30am to go over Article 38 in more detail.

Jerry and Amanda met with the Chair of CAAB and agreed to try to hold a joint CSEC and CAAB meeting in June to foster better coordination between the two groups.

## 4. Director's Update

Amanda noted that there is information about Mass Save and new rebates in her Director's update on [CAAB's website](#). She also reported that Newbury Court has an annual lecture in memory of Chuck Roth who was Director of Education at

Mass Audubon for over 30 years. They have asked for recommendations of speakers. Amanda asked if CSEC be interested in collaborating on this event. A few of the CSEC members had suggestions for topics like fusion energy and climate. Amanda will send over suggestions Monday. CSEC members should send her additional suggestions prior to that.

Brad gave a quick update on the Mass Energize meeting at which there were speakers from Mass Save who talked about changes in the National Grid program for market rate customers and low to moderate income customers.

#### 5. Review of Cooler Concord Sustainability Series support

Hany gave an update on the Cooler Concord Sustainability Series website, which is almost ready to go live—it's just missing the ability to send automatic confirmation to people who register for an event.

#### 6. Sustainability Series Event Reviews

Janet reported that everything is going well for the Keynote talk with Prof. Emanuel. She is speaking with Minuteman Media about A/V logistics on Monday. She will explore with them how to handle overflow should we need to. She will also ask Prof. Emanuel if it would be OK to record his talk.

Jerry asked what we would do in the moment of each event to encourage participants to take action. CSEC members should be prepared to speak with attendees who are ready to act; and maybe have a printed handout with suggested actions. Brad suggested some robust advertisement for the festival.

Amanda will put together text for emails going to registrants confirming registration and a second email reminder.

Amanda reported that for Arbor Day, CSEC should communicate registered numbers to the Garden Club. There may be additional groups who want to participate. Seedlings will include a write up about how trees help combat climate change.

Brad reported on the Festival which will be hosted by the Library. He and Amanda are working with Laura Davis on logistics.

Sharon gave an update on the Heat pump event. She has reached out to residents who might be interested in sharing their stories. Amanda suggested checking with Jan Aceti on a preferred contractor list; and perhaps alerting them to the event and inviting them to come, if interested. Doug suggested having a table with CMLP and an Abode coach to participate. The event will include information about rebates.

Doug gave an update on the *Your Sustainable Home Now* event. He is meeting with Minuteman Network on Monday to explore setting the event up as a hybrid event. The

plan is for several groups—CSEC, CMLP, Abode—to have information tables at the event. Doug and Jerry are going to do a dry run on April 12 to go through the material.

Janet gave an update on the EV event. Marc Scribner has agreed to participate in the event and will bring some EVs to the event. Indoors there will be 2-3 tables with a computer set up to show how to find chargers; to talk about different kinds of plugs.

7. Promotion status and plans

Jerry presented a contact list and list of places where promotional flyers can be posted for the Sustainability Series. CSEC members should reach out to the respective contacts, using a variation of the email template. Discussion focused on the media toolkit to be used in enlisting help from other individuals and organizations in promoting the series.

8. Public Comment

None

Janet moved to adjourn. Doug seconded. The committee adjourned at 9:10pm.