

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 21, 2022

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on April 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. CSEC members present were Jerry Frenkil (Chair), Karen Gibson (Clerk), Sharon Jones, Janet Miller, Mike McDonald, Douglas Sharpe, and Hany Teylouni. Also present were Amanda Kohn (Sustainability Director), Matt Johnson (Select Board), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Mark Pauley (Minuteman Media Network), Laura Davis (Mothers Out Front), and Cynthia Rainey (Concord School Committee).

Welcome and Call to Order:

Jerry called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

1. Approval of minutes from March 17

Janet moved to approve the minutes from the March 17th meeting. Karen seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Chair's Update

Jerry reported that he has invited the School Committee to brief CSEC members on the installation of a new gas boiler at the Alcott school at a special meeting on April 28th. The School Committee will report on their analysis and why the new boiler could not be electric. CAAB has also discussed the issue, but has not made any comments as a group at this time.

Sharon reported that Concord resident David Bearg has offered to open his house to CSEC members, and perhaps others, for a tour of the energy efficiency improvements he has made. Sharon will ask him for some concrete dates/times.

Sharon also reported that Mark Hanson has reached out about the work he has done on weatherization and insulation. She suggested inviting him to participate in the Sustainability Series, specifically at the *Your Sustainable Home Now* event.

Jerry reported that he learned during the monthly Chair's meeting that there will be a new newspaper in town called the Concord Bridge, to be launched in the fall.

Jerry reminded CSEC members that Town Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 1 and likely May 2 as well. Article 38, which CSEC voted to recommend positive action on, will be taken up. There may also be an amendment to Article 19, the Concord School Capital Budget, related to the boiler issue.

3. Director's Update

Amanda reported that we are coming up on a new contract cycle for the Sustainable Concord dashboard (sustainableconcord.org). On the Action Plan page visitors to the site can explore Sustainable Concord in an interactive web format rather than just a pdf. She is looking for feedback on the site. Doug and Mike expressed concern about potential redundancy and confusion between the dashboard and the Town website. Some members said that they found the Town website difficult to navigate. Jerry asked CSEC members to send feedback to Amanda individually in the next 2-3 weeks.

4. Keynote Speaker Final Prep (April 27)

Jerry reported that he met with Mark Pauley of Minuteman Media Network (MMN) to test the A/V system at Harvey Wheeler for the keynote address by Prof. Kerry Emanuel. MMN will film the event which will be recorded on zoom and then posted to MMN. Set up will begin at 5pm. Janet reported that Jerry, Delphine (CCHS), and she met to go over logistics. Janet suggested a slide about the Sustainability Series as people walk into the room. A few CSEC members volunteered to come early to help set up and to staff a CSEC table at the back of the room with printouts of upcoming events (sign in with QR code), *Your Sustainable Home Now* brochure, Festival banner, and Festival handout.

5. Arbor Day Celebration Final Prep (April 29)

Amanda reported on the logistics for Arbor Day with the Garden Club and Public Works. The event begins at 10am with set up at 9:30am at the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail parking lot on Commonwealth Ave. Amanda will report on the application to become a Tree City, and how planting trees helps with the health of the ecosystem, followed by the Arbor Day proclamation, a student poem, the dedication of the tree, photos, audience comments, and seedlings for handout. There will be an opportunity for CSEC to have a table and publicize the rest of the Sustainability Series events.

6. Cooler Concord Climate Festival FINAL Prep (April 30)

Laura Davis (Mothers Out Front) reported on the many groups (Sunrise Movement, CCHS Green Team, Mothers Out Front, ConcordCan, Pollinator Health Advisory Committee, Ag Committee, Mass Bikes, Concord Bikes...), who are participating in the Cooler Concord Climate Festival and the variety of activities for both kids and adults. Concord residents will bring their electric cars to show. The event is scheduled for April 30, with a rain date of May 7. She asked for volunteers from CSEC to help at the event and in promoting the event.

7. Other Sustainability Series Event Reviews

Sharon gave an update on plans for the heat pump event. CMLP and the heat pump coaches will participate; Mike will explore whether someone from National Grid can also participate. There was discussion about whether to invite vendors as informational participants (not recommended vendors) as this would be helpful to participants to be able to ask questions directly of the installers. Amanda suggested asking Jan Aceti about inviting the vendors that Abode is working with. CSEC will consider whether or not to record the event.

Doug gave an update on the *Your Sustainable Home Now* event. CSEC will consider whether or not to do a hybrid online/zoom and in-person event. Jerry and Doug are putting together a PowerPoint presentation for *Your Sustainable Home Now* and will circulate it for CSEC member comments.

Janet reported on the EV event, which will be in person with cars parked outside the Harvey Wheeler Building. There will be tables inside where participants will talk to organizers about charging, trip planning, and the resources available. Brad suggested featuring people who have made trips, and showing how easy and fun the app is to use. Amanda suggested simulating a trip to New York starting from Concord, and each table is a different charging stop. More details to come.

8. Promotion and Website Updates

CSEC members reported on the outreach and promotion that they have done for the Sustainability Series to date. Brad presented his idea for encouraging citizens at the Festival to use the Cooler Concord website to record actions and become climate heroes.

9. Special CSEC meeting on Thursday 4/28

Jerry will circulate more information about this meeting in advance.

10. Public Comment

None

Jerry moved to adjourn. Janet seconded. The committee adjourned at 9:17pm.