

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on July 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. CSEC members present were Brad Hubbard-Nelson (acting chair), Janet Miller, Karen Gibson, Jerry Frenkil, and Bob Shatten.

1. Welcome visitors:

Brad Hubbard-Nelson welcomed visitors, Brian Foulds and Kim Slack, former Chair Sustainable Belmont.

2. Approval of minutes:

CSEC June 6 minutes were reviewed and approved as amended. Bob Shatten motioned to approve and Karen Gibson seconded.

3. Next meetings:

Brad Hubbard-Nelson will reach out to committee members to find a new date for the August meeting. Jerry Frenkil will chair the August meeting. The September meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 17th.

4. Updates and Announcements:

Brad Hubbard-Nelson reported on the Concord Municipal Light & Power (CMLP) Light Board meeting he attended. CMLP discussed the strategic plan, particularly batteries and the roll out of smart meters by July 2020. Bob Shatten will learn more about the battery related work and will report back to CSEC. CMLP Light Board also voted on the Palmer Biomass power and determined not to go forward.

ConcordCan will show the movie "Burned" about biomass power at First Parish at 7pm on Tuesday, July 16th. The Baker Administration is currently taking public comments on biomass.

The Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS), an organization that makes building codes, has committed to developing a Net-Zero Stretch Code. The Legislature can make this code enforceable.

Brian Foulds gave an overview of the CMLP meeting agenda, which included a cost of service study, NISC study, strategic plan update, public records requests, the upcoming vote on purchase power agreements, offshore wind and solar/nuclear agreements, and fiber optics. The Town's contract for 22% natural gas is expiring. Energy New England (ENE) offered options for replacing natural gas with biomass, which was rejected, offshore wind, and solar/nuclear.

5. Report on Clean Home Heating & Cooling Expo June 8th:

Brad Hubbard-Nelson Good reported on the Clean Home Heating and Cooling Expo that took place on June 8th. Approximately 45 people attended the Concord event and about 60 people attended the Wayland event. The program included several testimonials and Q&A sessions with vendors associated with home MVP project. There was good collaboration between Concord and Wayland groups. The meetings showed the continued need for coaching.

Brad Hubbard-Nelson provided an update on the Heat Pump working group. HeatSmart has been meeting for several years, and still meets once a month. The group is looking at how to open up to other communities – to expand to become a MetroWest heat pump group, providing local outreach and coaching to complement MassSave/GECA/NEEP resources. Concentrated areas of implementation will foster awareness and build momentum. The mission and goals are electrification of home heating towards the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) goals. Brad observed that the Green Energy Consumer Alliance would be a natural group to coordinate with.

6. Update on MassEnergize:

Brad Hubbard-Nelson reported on MassEnergize, a nonprofit he is working with tied to the Heat Pump group and focused on communities. MassEnergize received a grant from E4theFuture foundation, and MassCEC internship funding. The organization's website will have user profiles and new functionality; information about solar PV, heat pumps, high impact/low impact, high cost/low cost; and will have a carbon calculator. The website, scheduled to launch in September, will provide a suite of tools for people and communities to use. Brad asked for help from CSEC members reviewing content for the website. Janet Miller and Karen Gibson volunteered. Brian Foulds suggested using EPA assumptions rather than recreating formulas for the carbon calculator. Brad will revisit EPA assumptions.

7. Planning for mini-Solarize campaign:

Brian Foulds reviewed the accomplishments of the 2012-2013 solar campaign, including a solar fair and Solar Challenge. His role was to speak about financials with citizens, invite solar installers and other technologies to participate, and help consumers match with installers. During the Solar Challenge, CSEC vetted solar installer offers and proposals and selected one installer to do installations at

reduced costs (a higher number of installations drove down costs). The company did a lot of marketing at their own cost. There was a letter or memorandum of understanding between the Town and the company. Kim Slack noted that municipalities can no longer get Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs). The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has produced grant money in lieu of SRECS, providing an upfront incentive. Brian noted the 30% tax credit from the Feds is tailing off-- 26%-22%-18%, and suggested looking at the Sunset schedule.

DOER's new MLP Residential Solar Rebate Program starting May 2019 provides a one-time incentive of \$1,200 per kW DC or solar PV capacity installed. The rebate is available to residential and commercial arrays up to 25kw. As of May 2019, there is \$300,000 available in solar rebates in Concord. This is additional to CMLP one-time rebate of \$625 per kW DC - up to \$3125. Brian noted that for larger commercial systems there are still capacity issues with CMLP circuits which need to be addressed. He noted that 50 residential systems would be a good target. This is last chance to get incentive for adding solar to residential.

CSEC discussed a potential role for MassEnergize to help set-up and administer a new solar fair with vendors, selecting and contracting with installers. There will be associated marketing expenses (direct mailers, employees tabling events, yard signs, constant updates, info phone numbers), and these would have to have clear ties to Concord. CSEC should talk to the Town legal counsel regarding the Solarize model.

The Town is getting a second electric bus, which can be used for storage--vehicle to grid. Brian Foulds, Kate Hanley, and others have grant money to work with consultants and conduct a study to develop a plan for distributed storage at Town shelters. Distributed storage will require additional software for CMLP. MassEnergize (or Solarize group) could help by developing a list of interested residents. CSEC could help by educating residents about the MLP solar incentive and at the same time gauging interest in residential storage. The estimated cost for a battery is \$7,000 for 13kw battery. In parallel, CMLP and CSEC need to determine what kind of storage program works best in Concord. Jerry Frenkil recently gave presentation on storage at MCAN-- on the need for stack services/multiple benefits in order to be cost effective. CMLP needs a program to help do this.

8. Further discussion about Town EV adoption goals and strategies:

Janet Miller reported on the Town's Electric Vehicle (EV) activities. Committee members discussed what more CSEC can do to contribute to this effort. There is currently a lot of marketing going on. On October 26th, Discover West Concord will have display EV cars and a sign up for a Ride & Drive to take place at the beginning of November. ENE is working on a website where you can calculate the cost of buying an electric car with a gas car. The state subsidy for EVs is phasing out at the end of September. There is a draft RFP out for a consultant who will look into different categories of multi-unit dwellings for electric charging stations. There will

be a presentation for managers of multi-unit dwellings in the fall to report on this issue, and they will have the opportunity to apply for pilot money. \$25K/year for 3 years.

9. Further discussion about 2019/2020 CSEC Focus, Goals & Objectives:

Brad Hubbard-Nelson moved to table Item 9 until the next meeting due to the late hour.

10. Liaison reports from other committees:

Janet Miller reported on the Climate Advisory Action Committee (CAAB). Concord Sustainability director, Kate Hanley has hired an intern who is working on a project to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) in commercial buildings. The committee will meet on Wed, July 17th at 7pm in the Select Board Room.

11. Public Comments:

None

12. Adjourn:

Bob Shatten motioned to adjourn. Jerry Frenkil seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.