



Clean Energy And Sustainability (CEAS)

MINUTES of MEETING

Email Posting to [townclerk@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:townclerk@chelmsfordma.gov)

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DATE: January 4, 2022 TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Chelmsford Town Offices ADDRESS: 50 Billerica Road, Chelmsford, MA 01824

ROOM: Conference Room

MINUTES

Minutes of Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee Meeting

Meeting date: December 20, 2021 Chelmsford Town Offices, Room 200

Members present: In person: Bernard Kosicki, Badhri Uppiliappan

Members present, participating remotely: Sean McGuigan, David Sperry, David Drayton

Members absent: Brittany Doherty, Caeli Tegan, Bethany Ward, Sally Johnston

Others present: Melissa Joyce, Town of Chelmsford Sustainability Manager

Meeting called to order by Badhri Uppiliappan, Committee Chair

**Agenda Item: Meeting Minutes review**

Chair Uppilippan requests comment on minutes from 12/6 and 12/20. No updates requested.

Minutes approved as worded.

**Agenda Item: Public Input**

No public input.

Member Bern Kosicki made a motion to close Public Input. Seconded by Vice Chair David Drayton and unanimously approved. Public input closed.

**Agenda Item: Publishing the Committee/Vision – final steps for web page**

Bethany Ward, who was assigned this task, is not present at this meeting, so Melissa is going to follow up with her to get a status update.

Melissa Joyce, as a town employee, is the one who will make the actual updates to the site, since she has permissions to do so.

Melissa Joyce says that the site is not currently live, although she can edit it. She plans on reaching out to her contact in IT to sort that out.

### **Agenda Item: Complete presentation on the Chelmsford Energy Performance (out of order)**

Some discussion topics included:

- Chelmsford has made \$4.4 million PLUS in revenue from its currently installed solar on our school and other buildings. Unfortunately, many of our buildings (such as the Chelmsford Forum) don't have roofs that can structurally support a (heavy) solar installation.
- The next time the electricity aggregation (Chelmsford Choice) options will change is Summer of 2024, though we usually bid for the energy the prior summer, so we'll need to be prepared to bid in Summer 2023.
- Can we aggregate electricity with other towns?
- Are the Chelmsford Choice generation charges higher than what it costs solar panels to produce the electricity?
- How can we work with the state to ensure enough solar power is available?
- Last time aggregation came up, it was to save people money, and it still had a lot of backlash because people felt it was government overreach, so we need to be prepared for that if we pitch making the default more expensive.
- Chair Badhri Uppilippan wants to set a goal for Fall 2022 town meeting to get an authorization ready for Melissa Joyce and team to increase the Greener option and make it the default. He wants to frame it as "the right thing to do."
- 7:50 Melissa Joyce to get our contact at Peregrine to meet with us, potentially second meeting in February.
- There's an upcoming change in policy, where large producers of organic waste will need to compost it rather than just throwing it away. Our schools aren't big enough to trigger this requirement, but we plan on opting-in. Likely recycling committee coordination area. Also regarding mattress recycling.
- 8:01 unlikely Chelmsford would adopt a curbside composting program given budget
- Chair Badhri Uppilippan requested that Melissa Joyce send him information regarding what the land and other requirements would be to build a commercial composting facilities in Chelmsford.
- Lots of great data to work with from Mass Save at <https://www.masssavedata.com/public/home>
- 8:09 next week we are likely to have a Mass Save contractor come talk to us, and will discuss at January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Action Items for Members:

- MELISSA JOYCE: Chair Badhri Uppilippan requested that Melissa Joyce send him information regarding what the land and other requirements would be to build a commercial composting facilities in Chelmsford.
- UNASSIGNED: Chair Badhri Uppilippan wants to set a goal for Fall 2022 town meeting to get an authorization ready for Melissa Joyce and team to increase the Greener option and make it the default.
- UNASSIGNED: Figure out if we can aggregate electricity with other towns.
- UNASSIGNED: Figure out if the Chelmsford Choice generation charges are higher than what it costs solar panels to produce the electricity, and if so why.
- UNASSIGNED: Figure out how we can work with the state to ensure enough solar power is available.

### **Agenda Item: Progress towards presentation deck about CEAS (out of order)**

Vice Chair Drayton received this feedback from the group on his PowerPoint deck:

- Member Bern Kosicki suggested giving some context about who we are (i.e. about the town meeting)
- Chair Badhri Uppilippan suggested adding something about what “net zero” means. He also suggested we try to figure out some more finalized content for the “services we offer” slide. Perhaps even stopping before this slide to show an open-ended slide to open discussion.
- Chair Badhri Uppilippan shares his “4 pillars” to help committees and select board to have a decision-making framework. (document in progress)
- Member David Drayton to complete Version 2 over next few days BEFORE next meeting so it’s ready for people to send out sooner, Sean says he’s happy to bounce ideas around.
- All committee members to write out their committee-specific points for their presentation by next meeting, for each committee to which they’re acting as a rep.

Action Items for Members:

- ALL: Write out your committee-specific points for your presentation by next meeting, for each committee to which you signed up to be acting as a rep. (Vice Chair David Drayton to send out link to spreadsheet for this purpose)
- DAVID DRAYTON: complete Version 2 of the PowerPoint over next few days BEFORE next meeting so it’s ready for people to send out sooner.

### **Agenda Item: Review of Scorecards Concept**

Vice Chair David Drayton presents his work on creating a metrics spreadsheet, using MAPC playbook as a source of potential metrics. Members discussed this and other alternatives to MAPC like Clear Path, which is currently being used by six other towns in Massachusetts. Clear Path is about \$1,200/yr.

We have contacts in other towns who are using both Clear Path and MAPC, so we have people to interview of each as we try to decide which one to use.

Chair Badhri Uppilippan suggests second goal for committee be that we have our scorecard ready by June 2022. Start by putting info into free MAPC spreadsheet.

Members Sean McGuigan and Bern Kosicki to bring a slide comparing MAPC and Clear Path dashboard solutions to next meeting.

Regardless of which software we use, the MAPC Playbooks provide an excellent set of actions, help to prioritize each one, and provide resources for each. It gives us a map to move forward. Especially since it’s specifically geared toward Massachusetts towns.

Action Items for Members:

- SEAN MCGUIGAN AND BERN KOSICKI: bring a slide comparing MAPC and Clear Path dashboard solutions to next meeting.
- UNASSIGNED: Chair Badhri Uppilippan suggests second goal for committee be that we have our scorecard ready by June 2022.

**Agenda Item: Any other topics (out of order)**

What to do with the money available to us from existing grants, which needs to be spent by the end of June.

Kristina is going to request some of these funds to get a consultant to look at our zoning laws to make them more sustainable. But still trying to figure out how to use the remainder of the money.

We only have about 1-2 months to figure this out.

Chair Badhri Uppilippan asked if anyone was interested in joining subcommittee (made up of CEAS, Permanent Building Committee, and Planning Board) for the purpose of hiring a zoning consultant using grant money. Badhri will likely be one member, but we need one more. Present members don't have bandwidth. Hopefully one of the absent members can step up.

Action Items for Members:

- ALL: Someone needs to step up to be on the subcommittee to help find a good way to spend the grant money.

**Agenda Item: Commercial / Industrial learnings regarding technology**

Chair Badhri Uppilippan, Vice Chair David Drayton, and member Bern Kosicki will be meeting with a consultant tomorrow who specializes in advising contractors who build or retrofit electrified buildings. They will report back next meeting with any information that may be useful in advising the Trammell Crow or other developments. The meeting will also be recorded so we can forward it to anyone who is interested.

**Agenda Item: January 2021 meeting dates**

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Drayton, Vice Chair