



Clean Energy And Sustainability (CEAS)

MINUTES of MEETING

Email Posting to townclerk@chelmsfordma.gov

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DATE: February 2, 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: February 2, 2022 Chelmsford Town Offices, Room 200

Members present: In person: Badhri Uppiliappan, Dave Drayton, Bernard Kosicki

Members present, participating remotely: Sean McGuigan, David Sperry, Brittany Doherty, Caeli Tegan, Bethany Ward, Sally Johnston

Others present: Marlana Patton: Peregrine Energy Group Representative (remote), Melissa Joyce: Town of Chelmsford Sustainability Manager (remote), Evan Belansky: Chelmsford Planning Board

Meeting called to order by Badhri Uppiliappan, Committee Chair

Agenda Item: Meeting Minutes review

Chair Uppilippan requested comment on minutes from 1/18/22.

Chair Uppilippan reiterated his repeatedly expressed wish for the minutes to be shorter and less detailed.

Member Kosicki to send Clerk Johnston his comments for clarification on minutes.

Agenda Item: Public Input

No public input.

Agenda Item: Any Other Topics (out of order)

Chair Uppilippan updated the committee on his public input regarding CEAS's activities during the last Planning Board meeting as well as regarding the Tramwell Crow development.

He requested input on his statements from the committee.

Several members reiterated their desire that before the Chair makes public statements on behalf of the committee that the committee comes to a consensus about that content beforehand.

It is suggested that a regular agenda item be included to discuss any upcoming public forums and how the committee would like to be represented.

The next meeting mentioned for this type of input was in the early spring.

Agenda Item: New business: Learn about community aggregation program from Peregrine Energy Group (Chelmsford aggregator)

Peregrine Energy Group representative Marlana Patton joined the meeting to explain and discuss Chelmsford's energy aggregation program. Topics included:

- Adopting higher green energy content as the default in Chelmsford Choice program
- The role of the DPV in regulating the green energy amounts in the town's choice program - the DPV does not govern how much renewable energy is in the town's contracts
- When the renegotiation of the energy content levels would next take place - at the end of the current supply contract in the Fall of 2023)
- Refining the types of renewable energy to be added - there is no regulatory constraint: it is up to the towns
- How other towns are implementing their programs: usually three tiers with middle as default, but could have four tiers
- The timing and process of the next bidding for market indicative and locking down of executable prices (next spring?)
- How people generally react to change in default: most go with the default
- Could we make the default the 100% green option?
- The various classes of recs and how that breaks down in our various options
- The number of Chelmsford residents choosing higher than default that are enrolled in the choice program option (20 in greener, 95 in greenest)
- Roadmap for DPV to increase the minimum renewable standards (additional 3% a year per roadmap bill)
- The Massachusetts class 1 requirement and its annual increase: 2% per year, in 2024 3%
- Annual compliance information for retail electric suppliers:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/annual-compliance-information-for-retail-electric-suppliers>
- RPS + APS minimum standards spreadsheet can be downloaded for more information
- Demand does not cause problems for enough recs to go around: suppliers have other market mechanisms to deal with that issue
- How to do outreach to unenrolled community members or people who have been scammed in the past
- The reason behind different towns having different rates for their contract pricing
 - Constant market changes and when prices are locked in
 - Load profile of the town: how much energy used and at what time of the day
 - Mix of residential and commercial

Agenda Item: State planning Grant - Evan Belansky, Planning Board/Economic Development. Study committee formation and usage of grant monies/scope/duration.

Evan Belansky of the Planning Board joined the meeting. He was there to discuss using a 50k state planning grant to hire a consultant to create a climate resiliency action plan for the town.

This report would recommend and advise on issues such as green infrastructure and green buildings. As the grant application specifically references green buildings and the Chelmsford zoning bylaw does not have green language in it.

Mr. Belansky is going to draft the grant application and is reaching out to the CEAS as the logical engagement point for the consultant. Once they are hired, other town players can be brought in as needed. He is going to create and

put out a RFP for a consultant, and the CEAS and Melissa Joyce will assist in the process of interviewing and selecting the appropriate one.

He will create a draft of the RFP and send it out for review before the next CEAS meeting on 2/16/2022.

The preferred timeline is 3-4 weeks after the RFP is sent out to get responses and 6-8 weeks out to get the contract signed and engagement started.

Together with the CEAS Mr. Belansky would present the results of the report to the Planning Board.

Also discussed in general about the town's bylaws:

- LID (Low Impact Development) in the town bylaws in regards to stormwater management and impervious surfaces coverage as opposed to referencing green building.
- Any special exceptions in the bylaws restricting energy being more about maintaining neighborhood character in terms of location and size of energy production/processing structures.
- Chelmsford's residential solar allowances are not regulated in the bylaws so are open by default and are accommodating compared to other similar communities, however, commercial applications of solar are more regulated.
- In the state of Massachusetts local zoning bylaws are not allowed to regulate the inside of structures and therefore cannot regulate how a building receives its power. However, many bylaws can provide incentives to adopt specific power source types (i.e. geothermal, green energy)
- Zoning regulates energy uses and/or how a development is laid out with a utility plan for informational purposes

Also discussed in regards to the RFP and resulting report:

- The expertise of the consultant hired and their needing to have experience in both zoning and green building
- Whether the report will focus on sustainability or resiliency or both - seeing as sometimes those two approaches can come into conflict with one another
- There should be bylaws to introduce by October of 2022
- The report should have specific recommendations rather than general strategies
- Using the existing MAPC playbook as an example for the RFP so consultants can provide a more accurate price for their services and outcomes
- Needing to be mindful in how the CEAS and the town introduces these changes to the development community, perhaps even meeting with local developers to get an idea of what is possible now versus in the future.

Agenda Item: Committee business - Old/Unfinished

Review of Scorecards/report concept - continue discussion on next steps including NMCOG activity

- NMCOG has applied for a grant to help Chelmsford and other local communities. Through this they will be able to provide Chelmsford (working with Melissa Joyce) with assistance in the data collection needed for the MAPC tool
- They will complete the tool with our assistance
- This will take around 4-6 weeks to complete
- The CEAS committee has no objections, Melissa Joyce to proceed with the project

Progress towards Presentation Deck about CEAS

- Slide decks should be sent out before any introduction meeting takes place to chair of each committee to be shared with committee members
- The third bullet should be contact information for appointed CEAS member
- Important to come across as asking if the other committees need help versus pushing our agenda onto them
- First bullet in presentation should have the tone of "how can we work together"
- Try to get onto their meeting agenda to present deck and discuss collaboration opportunities
- Also possible to join via public input

- Member Doherty and Chair Uppiliappan will meet to discuss wording in School Committee presentation.

Agenda Item: Dave Sperry - Assessors' database and data and how it might be useful for outreach

In the interest of time, member Sperry deferred his presentation to the next meeting.

Agenda Item: Community Survey

In the resources folder on Google Drive members can put potential survey questions for review.

Agenda Item: March 2022 meeting dates TBD

Meetings in March will be on 3/2/2022, 3/16/2022, with a potential 3rd meeting on 3/31/2022

Action Items for Members:

- Review slide deck and presentation materials for finalization
- Read Evan Belansky's RFP draft
- Submit community survey questions to Google Doc in folder

Meeting closed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Johnston, Clerk