



# Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

## *Minutes of Public Meeting*

Filed with Town Clerk:

**DATE:** Monday, February 13, 2023      **TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**PLACE:** Town Offices      **ADDRESS:** 50 Billerica Road      **ROOM:** 200

### MINUTES

*Prepared by Sean McGuigan, Clerk*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Badhri Uppiliappan (Chair, in person), Bern Kosicki (in person), Sean McGuigan (Clerk, in person), Brittany Nammour (remote), David Sperry (in person), Caeli Tegan (remote), Peter Spawn (in person)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** David Drayton, Jim Walton, Jack Bergstrom

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chris Haley, Chelmsford Sustainability Manager

#### **Public Input**

John Tubridy (in person) – no public input, observation of meeting only

#### **Committee Liaison updates**

Caeli, Brittany - no updates

Dave Sperry – Emailed GHG inventory information to Bentley students and a Zoom meeting will be held with the students on Wednesday, Feb 22.

Bern – no updates

Sean McGuigan – Provided update on a January 16<sup>th</sup> CCAT meeting he attended in which he spoke about the latest happenings with the Chelmsford Choice program. Daniella from NMCOG also provided comments on the draft report that need to be addressed.

Peter – Had discussions with NMCOG and Paul Cohen re: Tree and Shrub Master Plan funding proposal to implement the natural attenuation portion of the Town Plan

Badhri – In their February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Planning Board required developers of housing projects answer the questionnaire that the CEAS team developed. It is believed that questionnaires will come to this Committee for review and comment. A new warehouse being built at 270 Billerica Road had originally proposed solar panels on roof and the Planning Board requested that this developer work with us on sustainability. The intent of questionnaire is for the developer to tell their “green” story and we can advise Planning Board on sustainability items the developer might want to add to their project.

## **Playbook team updates**

**Green Energy team, Transportation team, Zoning team, and Clean Buildings team** – No updates

## **Website Discussion**

Chris has access to the CEAS page on the Town's website and he can add/remove links/information. He needs guidance on what to put on the website. Peter sent an email out tonight with a list of some desired information to add to a website. The CEAS committee should review and then we can start to populate the website.

## **Update on MassSave Grant and HPC Selection Policy**

Chris was able to speak to all of the HPCs and they do not want to work together as a group or as partners. Chris doesn't anticipate the Town will have any concerns with a single-HPC program. The MOU still needs to be signed with All-In Energy and there's been no further information from MassSave on grant. All-In Energy needs to specify to us how they will communicate with underserved populations.

## **Public Outreach Communication Plan**

Our article was in the Town Manager newsletter – comments were to be sent to Bern but there have been no comments as of yet. The same article will go into the Senior Center newsletter and possibly the Town Library newsletter.

Peter is looking for ideas for the next Town Manager newsletter. We have an opportunity to participate in CCAT's Earth Day event? Should CEAS have their own table at CCAT event which will be held at the library?

The CHS Eco Club invited us to speak on their panel on 3/8. Panel will focus on sustainability careers. Brittany will participate. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, there is a career fair. We can tell the Eco Club that the Committee may have money available for projects if they want/need it.

Bern has been invited to talk to 5<sup>th</sup> graders at McCarthy on sustainability and climate change this Thursday.

A zero waste lunches program has been discussed in the Wellness Committee

## **Specialized Stretch Code Adoption**

The Planning Board wanted to hear about the Specialized Stretch Energy Code so last Wednesday, Bern gave a pitch to them and they were neutral with some minor comments. Some possible concerns about the Specialized Stretch Code:

- Does moving to all electric put us in the throes of just one electrical provider? We need to communicate that there are multiple electrical suppliers available in Chelmsford.
- There's likely to be a question about the expense of roof-top solar panels to replace natural gas furnaces when people have those units already in their homes.
- There could be a potential question about neighboring trees impacting solar panels - what is the Town's policy on trees that may negatively impact solar.
- There could be a potential question about if homes with solar panels have reduced home values. Dave Sperry can try to get data on the Town Assessor. \
- We need to be able to answer or rebut these potential questions.

### **Update on Climate Action Plan**

The Building section has been updated since the October 24<sup>th</sup> version (the version in the Town Manager's newsletter) with some formatting changes. Did not change any text in any other section. There were no comments from the Committee or recommended changes to make to this Dec 13<sup>th</sup> version. Badhri makes a motion to approve the Dec 13<sup>th</sup> version as the current draft interim version. All members vote yes and motion passes 7-0.

### **Meeting Minutes**

The December 20<sup>th</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved with Bern's edits to the January 12<sup>th</sup> minutes.

### **Interim Vice Chair**

Peter volunteered to hold the title of Interim Vice Chair.

### **Ethics Training**

Committee members need to take the training and forward their completion certificates to the Town Clerk.

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> Town Events**

How can our Committee participate?

### **March 2023 Meeting Date**

We will schedule a two-hour meeting for Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> with Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> as a backup.

### **Sustainability Manager Update**

Chris had a preliminary meeting on Chelmsford Choice and Chris wants this to be on the agenda for next meeting. Chris believes some pricing information will be available to him and then he will forward to us within next two weeks.

Chris will speak to Joyce about how much money the Committee has available to use.

Peter says the Select Board is available to help with Town Committees so how can we use them?

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.