



# Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

## *Minutes of Public Meeting*

Filed with Town Clerk:

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 1, 2022      **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), Sean McGuigan (Clerk, in person), Bern Kosicki (in person), Caeli Tegan (remote), David Drayton (Vice Chair, remote), David Sperry (remote)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brittany Doherty, Bethany Ward

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Evan Belansky (Community Development Director, remote), Kelly Beatty (resident of Chelmsford), Eric Tatara (resident of Chelmsford)

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Badhri requests comments on minutes from 2/2/2022 meeting. No comments were made.

Badhri makes a call for 2/2/2022 minutes acceptance and the committee votes to approve the minutes, as worded. New Clerk McGuigan will send to the Town Clerk for posting.

#### **Public Input**

Mr. Kelly Beatty provided background information on the LED lighting used at the Town's municipal buildings. According to Mr. Beatty, blue-rich lamps (5700 degrees K) were purchased in the 2013 timeframe based on a recommendation from Johnson Controls. Blue-rich lamps are not aesthetically pleasing and they are dangerous to animal populations (insects/bats). Mr. Beatty would recommend replacement of these lamps if there is short-term funding available and if not, he asks the committee to recommend replacement of these lamps as funding becomes available.

#### **Committee Clerk Selection and Committee Vacancy**

Sean has agreed to be the Committee Clerk, at least through the remainder of his committee appointment. Dave Drayton will assist Sean with the transition.

The Select Board will review potential candidates for the committee vacancy and we may have an update by our next meeting.

#### **Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan Request for Proposal Discussion**

Evan Belansky updated the Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan Request for Proposal (RFP) and provided it to the Committee ahead of the meeting for review. Evan revised the RFP based on the Committee's input in the prior meeting. The Committee agreed that the revised RFP was satisfactory and Bern and Dave Drayton volunteered to work with Evan on final edits. Evan's goal was to issue the

RFP, to the list of consultants he maintains, within 7-10 days and give the consultants 3-4 weeks to respond to the RFP. Evan will determine who the Planning Board's liaison will be in their next Planning Board meeting.

A discussion occurred on whether the entire Committee should be involved in the selection of the consultant and then subsequently, the implementation of the project or if it was better to have a smaller number of Committee members focus on these tasks. It was generally agreed that the entire Committee would assist with the selection process and a smaller subgroup would work with the consultant.

A tentative schedule would be:

- The Committee would review and rank prospective consultants during the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting
- The Committee would conduct interviews of the highest ranked consultants during the first April meeting.
- The Committee's recommendation on consultant selection would be shared with the Select Board with approval and contracting occurring in April.
- Engagement with the consultant could begin with the first meeting in May.

### **Updates on MAPC Overview Presentation**

Dave prepared sign-up sheet for Committee members to select which Playbook team they wanted to join. However, it was decided to delay team selections until our new Committee member joins. Bern desires to join the Buildings Playbook team and Caeli desires to join the Transportation Playbook team.

### **MassSave Discussion**

Badhri introduced the topic of how MassSave can assist with the Committee's goals. The discussion focused on whether we should work with MassSave's vendors (such as NEEECO who the Committee met with on January 18<sup>th</sup>) to promote a home audit program in Chelmsford as a good first step in "greening" Chelmsford's homes. Dave Drayton voiced a concern about endorsing one company and it was agreed that the committee would need to meet with/vet additional MassSave vendors (such as Revise or HomeWorks) including conducting on-line/Better Business Bureau research. Ultimately, the Committee decided it was comfortable encouraging home audits and home envelope improvements.

The Committee could also hold educational seminars or a home energy improvement day with vendors to encourage citizens to learn more about green retrofits and home audits. The Green Building MAPC group could take a lead on brainstorming ideas and implementing their ideas as well as collecting names of potential vendors to work with.

Follow-up item: Badhri, Dave Sperry, and Bern would attempt to come up with a strategy around these ideas by the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Community Survey Discussion**

Badhri pointed the Committee to a draft Community Survey on Google Drive and encouraged everyone to add more questions to it. A discussion was had on what forums we should use to gather data and solicit opinions.

- Online forums and social media may be more flexible and may reach the greatest number of people.
- Can we use Town mailing lists, such as the Recycling Committee's mailing list?
- Use Earth Day to drive action in the Town's schools.
- Use flyers/inserts in tax bills.
- Conduct in person meetings at the Library and the Senior Center to reach off-line community members.

- Potentially encourage school or community groups (Scouts) to fundraise by signing up townspeople for home audits.

**Other topics:**

The Committee will aim to give the Select Board an update on our progress at the end of April/early May.

Caeli will provide the Committee an update on items she has been working on next meeting.

Badhri and Dave Drayton will meet with the Town's National Grid representative to get current thoughts on electrification and decarbonization and to open a communication line with our Committee. Other potential questions include

- What resiliency plans does National Grid have to meet the state's 2050 goals (i.e. handling distributed solar loads)?
- Why is National Grid not as active in IEEE as other energy suppliers?
- When will National Grid have a battery wall for consumers?

**April 2022 Meeting Dates**

Need to finalize next meeting

Badhri called for motion to adjourn meeting with a second by Dave Drayton. Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote.