



Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting

Filed with Town Clerk:

DATE: Monday, March 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), Sean McGuigan (Clerk, in person), David Sperry (remote), Peter Spawn (remote), Jim Walton (remote), Jack Bergstrom (in person), Bern Kosicki (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Drayton, Brittany Nammour, Caeli Tegan

OTHERS PRESENT: Chris Haley, Chelmsford Sustainability Manager

Public Input

John Tubridy, 45 High Street (in person) – John commented that he was unsure about the Specialized Stretch Code and how it would impact renovations. John asked if these meetings could be more accessible to the public via a public Zoom?

Rich Haddad, 212 Dalton Road (in person) – Rich learned about this Committee. He has been installing solar since 2011 and is interested in participating in the Committee in some way.

Committee Liaison updates

Jim Walton – Jim will look for another committee to liaise with as Dave Sperry is the primary Board of Assessor liaison.

Jack Bergstrom – Zoning Board of Appeals liaison but hasn't attended a meeting yet

Dave Sperry – Dave sent GHG inventory information to Bentley students and had a 45-minute Zoom meeting with the students on Wednesday, Feb 22 to explain the information provided. Dave gave them lots of residential information and the Weston & Sampson (W&S) zoning report. Dave learned that Lexington has an energy benchmarking requirement that can be difficult to comply with. If we ever consider a similar law, we need to make it easier for the regulated community to comply with.

Bern Kosicki – no updates

Sean McGuigan – no update

Peter Spawn – W&S has volunteered to write a proposal for Chelmsford for next round of Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grants. Evan Belansky and Peter will have a call with W&S to discuss

potential projects - low impact development guidelines and tree master plan). Peter will be meeting with Daniella from NMCOG in person the week of 3/27 to finalize next version of draft report.

Badhri – April 10th will be the meeting with the Select Board to discuss the Stretch Code.

Website Discussion

Peter has sent Chris ideas on what to post on our website page but Chris needs specific guidance. Chris and Peter will meet in person next two weeks to determine the exact information to be posted to the website.

Update on MassSave Grant and HPC Selection Policy

A lot of progress has been made on the MassSave grant and the All-in-Energy MOU. Chris was able to get the documents signed and Bern sent them to the agencies. We should be seeing the first \$10,000 from the grant soon as we sent an invoice out and we need to begin the process of selecting the HPC. Bern has prepared a draft Request for Information (RFI) document for the four HPCs who supply weatherization services to reply to. Chris will reach out to the Town's business office to see how to get this done quickly. What will be the selection process; will there be an interview or just a review of returned RFI information? Can we get the HPC lined up so they can attend the Earth Day event? All-in-Energy has asked the HPCs to attend Earth Day but they are luke-warm and may not want to attend without being selected. Does a presentation or notification on the HPC need to be given to Select Board? Chris will check with Paul and Badhri will check with Select Board on how the Town wants to proceed.

Public Outreach Communication Plan

Brittany participated on a sustainability career panel that the CHS Eco Club had on March 8th. Peter and others are trying to plan a meeting with CHS administrators to see how sustainability can be built into curriculum.

Specialized Stretch Code Adoption

Bern gave a presentation to Financial Committee to inform about the article to adopt the Specialized Stretch Code. There was good discussion and one question they had is what would be the added cost to a project if the Specialized Stretch Code is adopted? What will be the impact to homes under 4,000 sq feet? What is a significant renovation that triggers the code? We have some information on cost impacts and DOER has other costing information in their presentation slides given to the Town of Arlington.

There will be an in-person and Zoom forum on April 11 at 7:00 at the Chelmsford Library with a consultant from DOER on the Specialized Stretch Code. Town meeting reps and townspeople will be able to attend to learn about the Specialized Stretch Code. CEAS will present first to introduce the article, then the DOER speaker, then there will be a time for Q&A. We would like DOER to provide the Committee with their slides ahead of time.

Update on Chelmsford Choice

Sean gave a presentation on Chelmsford Choice. Summary:

- Chelmsford Sustainability Manager Chris Haley has received indicative pricing for a 2-year contract for Chelmsford Choice for the period November 2023 – November 2025
- Chelmsford Choice will continue to offer participants three options: Basic (state minimum green power, Greener (likely 50%) and Greenest (100% green)
- Prices will likely be 2-3 cents higher for each of the three options than current Chelmsford Choice prices but are more advantageous than what other communities have locked into recently

- CEAS committee discussed whether the Basic option or the Greener option should be the default option with no consensus or final recommendation
- Discussions with Town Manager will occur over next month before approaching the Select Board

Chris recommends that we have a decision made for the next Select Board meeting on March 27th.

Meeting Minutes

The February 13th meeting minutes will be approved next month.

Ethics Training

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

Earth Day Fair

April 22nd – CEAS should have a table with attendance.

April 2023 Meeting Date

We will schedule a two-hour meeting for Wednesday, April 12th.

Sustainability Manager Update

Chris has been working on the Chelmsford Choice program.

Miscellaneous

Peter and Jack have been brainstorming on putting some action items into a tracking spreadsheet.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.