



# Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

## *Minutes of Public Meeting*

Filed with Town Clerk:

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 12, 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), David Drayton (Vice Chair, in person), Sean McGuigan (Clerk, remote, partial attendance), Bern Kosicki (remote), Caeli Tegan (remote), David Sperry (remote), Jordan Vachon (in person)

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** David Righter (NMCOG)

#### **Meeting Minutes**

Badhri requests comments on minutes from 3/15/2022 meeting. No comments were made. Badhri makes a call for 3/15/2022 minutes acceptance and the minutes were approved. Sean will send to the Town Clerk for posting.

Badhri requests comments on minutes from 3/29/2022 meeting. One revision to the minutes was noted by David Drayton. Badhri makes a call for 3/29/2022 minutes acceptance and the minutes were approved. Sean will send to the Town Clerk for posting.

#### **Public Input**

None

#### **NMCOG Presentation on Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

David Righter from the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) gave a presentation (“Town of Chelmsford Greenhouse Gas Inventory – CEAS Committee Meeting – April 12, 2022”) on his greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory work for the Town of Chelmsford. In summary, NMCOG received a Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA) grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to prepare Chelmsford’s GHG inventory. Mr. Righter used the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Community GHG Inventory Tool which follows the 2014 Global Protocol with a baseline inventory year of 2017 – the standard GHG inventory baseline used by most cities/towns.

Mr. Righter is willing to meet with the Committee again on how to communicate the results to stakeholders and how to use the data – informing goals/generating action items. He has budget to also assist with planning for net-zero municipal operations, scope work related to community net-zero plans, and to conduct regional clean energy workshops (first workshop expected to be held in June with another in Fall 2022).

The Committee had several questions after Mr. Righter's presentation:

- Users of the tool should use Microsoft Excel, not Google Sheets. Opening the tool in Google Sheets may result in calculation errors.
- Dave Sperry asked whether the Town's solar projects are accounted for in the tool. Mr. Righter stated he would confirm.
- Carbon sinks (green spaces) are not included but Mr. Righter says we should start to determine the impact of carbon sinks and the benefits can be accounted for in future inventories.
- Does the transportation section include cars/trucks passing through Chelmsford on our roads/highway? Mr. Righter stated that the transportation data is based on MA vehicle census data so it does not but it does account for public transportation (Lowell Regional Transit Authority buses, for example).
- Mr. Righter further discussed the difference between Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions.
  - Follow-up item: Committee members should send any additional questions to Sean and he will forward them on to Mr. Righter to address.

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

On April 12, 2022, several Committee members interviewed Weston & Sampson about their Proposal to conduct the Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan. These members (Sean, Bern, David Drayton, and Badhri) reported to the entire committee on the results of the interview and they all recommended proceeding with Weston & Sampson.

David Drayton made a motion to recommend Weston & Sampson as the selected contractor to perform the to the Select Board Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan. David Sperry seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Bern, Dave Sperry, David Drayton, Caeli, Jordan, and Badhri voted yes during the meeting and Sean provided his support for motion before leaving the meeting prior to the vote. Therefore, the motion passed 7-0.

Next steps are for Evan Belansky to get on the Select Board's agenda for their next meeting so they can approve the contract. An initial kickoff meeting with Weston & Sampson could be as soon as May 3.

### **Update on MassSave Partnership Discussion**

Badhri and Gary Persichetti (DPW Director) met to discuss what might be required for a MassSave RFP. Badhri stated that a formal RFP may not be necessary but he will meet with Gary again. Badhri will obtain a NEECO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and we have an older MOU from HomeWorks. Bern will review these MOUs and will start to mark them up to draft one that we can use for Chelmsford as well as criteria on how to evaluate vendors. Badhri stated that there is tension between the utilities who fund the MassSave program and some of the vendors who perform the work who believe they are not compensated enough (<http://ma-eeac.org>).

### **Updating the Chelmsford Choice Green Electricity Program**

Timeline around a warrant article for the Fall 2022 meeting would be to focus on obtaining Select Board support for the article or going the route of a citizen's article. We also should review our contract to see what can be modified contractually. We might be able to contractually change the number of choices available or change the default choice from the cheapest option to the greenest option.

Caeli suggested approaching Pat Wojtas, our Select Board liaison, to explain our support for making green electricity the default choice under the Chelmsford Choice energy aggregation program. Badhri asks for ideas from the Committee on what we should recommend to the Select Board/Town. Dave Drayton suggested ramping up over 3-4 cycles to a 100 % green option (50% first cycle, 75% second cycle, and

100% third cycle) with increases to be automatic at each renewal cycle so we don't need approval from the Select Board or Town Meeting every time it updates and Caeli supported that thought. This more gradual approach may be more palatable than changing the default to the greenest level. Dave Sperry mentions that proposals can be amended at Town Meeting so we may end up with an unpalatable article after amendment.

### **MAPC Playbook Committee Updates**

Jordan signed up for Zoning Team with David Drayton. This team will be supporting Evan Belansky through Weston & Sampson's Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan. Badhri will help support the Zoning team with this project.

Dave Sperry and Bern are on the Building team. Caeli is on the Transportation team. Sean is on the Clean Energy team.

Each playbook team will report back to the Committee on their updates every four meetings. The Building Playbook Committee will discuss their updates on April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Clean Energy team will report their updates on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Transportation Team is scheduled for May 17.

### **Other topics:**

Caeli will present some climate change information on the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Badhri will try to schedule a meeting with Dr. Lang, Chelmsford Schools Superintendent to see how schools can support this Committee.

### **April and May 2022 Meeting Dates**

Meetings are scheduled for April 26, May 3, May 17, and May 31.

Meeting was adjourned.