



Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting

Filed with Town Clerk:

DATE: **Tuesday, April 26, 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), Bern Kosicki (in person), David Sperry (remote), Brittany Doherty (remote), Jordan Vachon (remote)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bethany Ward, Caeli Tegan

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Meeting Minutes

Badhri requests comments on minutes from 4/12/2022 meeting. Three revisions to the minutes were noted by David Drayton. We will wait until next meeting to approve.

Public Input

None

NMCOG Presentation on Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Prior to the May 3rd meeting, the Committee members will review the draft GHG inventory. During the May 3rd meeting, we will gather all questions/concerns and after the meeting, Sean will provide them to David Righter so that he can try to respond to them prior to the May 17th meeting.

Dave Sperry audited statistics for single family homes and they matched reasonably well with David Righter's data. Dave Sperry will try to review the industrial/commercial data for the May 3rd meeting.

David Righter sent some members of the Committee a survey link from NMCOG asking about the types of seminars communities would want NMCOG to make available to them. Sean will ask about survey results when he sends the GHG inventory questions to him.

What do we do with data from report? We can use it to prepare a summary for the Select Board. It was also noted that different sectors will have different ways to curb GHG emissions. A subgroup of us will need to become very familiar with information so that we can figure out what actions we can take and how to prioritize. Chelmsford Select aggregation program may be solution on the energy side that has a large impact. Is residential heating oil a big component? Transportation a big impact? Commercial/industrial?

- Follow-up Item - Dave Sperry, Brittany and Sean volunteered to be subgroup to review inventory and be ready to report on May 17th.
- Follow-up item: Committee members should send any additional questions to Sean and he will forward them on to Mr. Righter to address. Current questions for David Righter include:

- Whether the Town's solar projects are accounted for in the tool.

Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan Request for Proposal Discussion

The Select Board has approved the Committee's recommendation to hire Weston & Sampson to conduct the Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan. It is anticipated that an introductory meeting will be held on May 3rd.

Paul McDougall will be the Planning Board liaison for this project.

Update on MassSave Partnership Discussion

Badhri spoke with Gary Persichetti (DPW Director) and determined that the July 2016 Homeworks agreement with Chelmsford was a MOU. Bern has started to review various MOUs and started drafting his thoughts – will send his thoughts to the Committee and we will discuss further on May 3.

Updating the Chelmsford Choice Green Electricity Program

Sean will confirm with Paul Cohen what changes to the Chelmsford Choice Green Electricity need Town Meeting Approval and what can be done via contract changes. Sean will research the Town Meeting article in detail or find a recording of the Town Meeting where the program was approved.

Badhri met with Virginia Crocker Timmins from Select Board. She offered to have us on the Select Board's agenda for May 23rd to discuss our Committee updates, what our report to the Select Board will look like (compare/contrast reports from other towns), and introduce potential changes to Chelmsford Choice. We should encourage an open, candid dialogue at that meeting.

MAPC Playbook Committee Updates

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

Building Playbook update:

- Dave Sperry and Bern prepared a rough outline of building-related items that could be in the Select Board formal report.
 - The team is collecting information on items such as Massachusetts Stretch Code and as an example, Arlington's annual report has Net Zero Action Roadmaps for Buildings, Mobility, and Clean Energy

Community Surveys and Events

We need to finalize questions to ask citizens – Badhri has draft survey questions already written. Dave Drayton volunteers to help maintain a list of groups/channels to reach out to with our surveys/events. Jordan volunteers to assist. Dave will reach out to Bethany to see if she can assist. It may be hard to get people's attention during the summer and around Thanksgiving/Christmas holiday to respond to surveys.

Committee Liaison Updates

- Dave Sperry has no updates but will reach out, particularly to the Finance Committee.
- Sean McGuigan has no updates but will focus soon on the Capital Planning committee.
- Brittney has no updates. As she interacts with the Historical Commissions in town, what are challenges with historical building (like CCA and North Chelmsford Town Hall) energy upgrades?

- Badhri spoke with Paul Cohen on how we add sustainability to procurement processes. Can we give preference to companies with ESG goals? He stated that Commonwealth of MA doesn't have sustainability procurement requirements.
- Jordan has no updates but she will reach out to Diversity committee first.
- Dave Drayton – reached out to Capital Planning Committee and they don't meet until November. Reached out to Tree Committee – there's a gap in trees lost and trees planted that needs be filled. Master Plan Committee – Master Plan has been finalized but there will be a Master Plan Implementation Committee so perhaps there's a way to bring sustainability into the Master Plan. Economic Development Committee – completely inactive.
- Bern – wrote to chair of Conservation Commission to get on agenda and he might be able to speak at one of their two May meetings. Badhri separately reached out to Conservation Commission to discuss setting a procedure for installing geothermal near wetlands.

Other topics:

Badhri has scheduled a meeting with Dr. Lang, Chelmsford Schools Superintendent on May 11 to see how schools can support this Committee.

Bern and Badhri participated in North Central Climate Change Coalition (NC4) meeting about providing sustainability guidance to town select boards. NC4 is new regional sustainability group and we will continue to participate and track.

Badhri is planning on bringing real estate agents into the conversation and will reach out to banks.

May 2022 Meeting Dates

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

Meeting was adjourned.