



Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting

Filed with Town Clerk:

DATE: Tuesday, May 3, 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 (remote), David Sperry (remote), Caeli Tegan (remote), Bethany Ward

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brittany Doherty, Jordan Vachon

OTHERS PRESENT: Blake Martin (Weston & Sampson), Christopher Haley (Sustainability Manager)

Meeting Minutes

Badhri requested one more set of changes to 4/12/2022 meeting minutes. Those revisions were made and the minutes were approved and will be sent to the Town Clerk for posting. Meeting minutes for 4/26/2022 will be reviewed next meeting.

Public Input

None

Chelmsford Sustainability Manager

The Committee was introduced to Christopher Haley, Chelmsford's new Sustainability Manager. Welcome!

NMCOG Presentation on Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Dave Sperry audited statistics for single family homes and they matched reasonably well with David Righter's data. Dave Sperry has not had a chance to review the industrial/commercial data and it is not likely he'll have that information before June.

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 and see his availability for May 17th meeting. What are some potential topics we want NMCOG to present on?

- How to improve inter-town collaboration?
- Heat pumps?
- Other towns experiences with MassSave partnerships/fundraising or inter-town challenges?
- 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. Chelmsford generates solar from municipal projects and it is believed that it generates more power than it consumes.

Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan Request for Proposal Discussion

It is anticipated that Jordan, Bern, David Drayton, and Badhri will be the primary team to support Weston & Sampson (W&S) on the Climate Resiliency Regulatory Audit and Action Plan. Blake Martin from W&S reviewed a PowerPoint presentation.

- Introduction of team – Blake, Jim, Bella, and Joanna.
- Review of five tasks – projection initiation meeting, regulatory audit, strategic work sessions (2), action plan, final report and presentation.
- General schedule – May for initial meeting and regulatory audit, June/July working sessions, July/August action plan, September final report and presentation. Badhri asks if final deliverables could be delivered by end of August so we can digest and bring any changes to Fall Town Meeting
- Review of existing W&S databases (stormwater impervious surfaces among them)
- During working sessions, W&S will note any MassDEP regulations
- Tentative date/time of 7:30-9:00 PM on May 12th for kickoff meeting.

Update on MassSave Partnership Discussion

Bern and Dave Sperry reviewed a presentation entitled, “Mass-Save Town-Wide Program”.

- Why a Chelmsford Mass Save Program – weatherization is a first step for decarbonization, Mass Save is funded by all of us, raise profile of Chelmsford net-zero pledge
- How would program work?
 - Contractor would canvass residents, town organizations are invited to help with canvassing
- Proposed Parameters
 - Late Fall start, year-long program?, set a goal of number of audits?, funding by contractors to local canvassing organizations?, role of CEAS (help with promotion, adds to our goal of reaching out to residents
- Next steps
 - Selection process – confirm that RFI is adequate vs RFP
 - Confirm parameters in RFI
 - Send RFI to at least 3 Mass Save Contractors
 - Make selection of winning contractor
 - Plan program in summer with contractor
 - Begin program in Fall and promote program to local organizations and residents
- Questions on Bern’s presentation
 - How do we convince people to conduct audits? Perhaps getting school/scout groups to promote will encourage people to join up. Obtain principal’s email list to target families.
 - How are funds raised to be used? Fund future environmental projects, support an eco club at high school, purchase an electric car charging station.
 - How do we encourage renters to engage landlords to conduct audits/insulation projects? How do we determine which properties are being rented – Dave Sperry will talk to Assessor’s office.
 - Selection criteria – Bern provided some thoughts but we should think further about it. Does a local office for the contractor matter?
 - Submit a RFI and then use a MOU with the selected firm(s). Make sure there’s no company proprietary information in the RFIs.

- Make this an on-going process instead of a year-long program?
- Discussion about whether signing up homes for audits is truly community service? This is occurring in other towns. Groups would have to sign the MOU to participate and receive incentives for audit recommendations. Prepare to discuss that vendors will be making money via their insulation projects but there is a greater good to the Town by conducting energy conservation projects.
- This topic will be discussed further next meeting. Bern's timeline is compressed and how can we meet that timeline? Need to confirm whether we need a RFP or not?

MAPC Playbook Committee Updates

Energy Playbook update:

- Sean mentioned that his two priorities will be to work on changing the Chelmsford Choice Green Electricity Program as has been discussed and also to work with the Town and National Grid to minimize methane emissions from the natural gas transmission lines in town.

Committee Liaison Updates

- Dave Sperry will be going to ZBA meeting this week. Badhri is available to help Dave meet with the Finance Committee.
- Caeli had no liaison updates but believes LEPC is not well-engaged.
- Bethany has no updates but is available to meet with Badhri with the School Committee.
- Dave Drayton has no updates.
- Badhri attended Planning Board meeting last week and gave public input on minimizing environmental impacts on 9 Acton Road development. The project was approved and project engineers seem willing to meet with or Committee. Town bylaws may need to be updated so that the Planning Board has the ability to influence environmental impacts of projects. Badhri still thinking about how to contact realtors in town.
- Badhri trying to meet with Select Board on either May 23 or June 6 to give them an update on our activities. Badhri will share a draft slide-deck with the Committee for comment before the meeting.

Other topics:

Dave Sperry mentioned that three committee members will be up for renewal in July and should look for emails from the Town to renew their appointment. It is believed that Bethany, Caeli, and Sean are the three committee members. Bethany would like to discuss this further next meeting.

May and June 2022 Meeting Dates

Meetings are scheduled for May 17 and May 31.

Discussions on when June meetings will be. Dave Drayton mentioned that Tuesdays are becoming more challenging for him. Badhri will discuss with other members what days will work best. June meetings are tentatively set for June 7 and June 21.

Meeting was adjourned.