



# Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

## *Minutes of Public Meeting*

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TOWN OF  
CHELMSFORD  
PATRICIA E. DZURIS  
TOWN CLERK

DATE: **Tuesday, July 19, 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), Bern Kosicki (virtual), Sean McGuigan (Clerk, in person), David Sperry (virtual), Jim Walton (virtual), Madlyn Adkins (in person), Shrilantha Raajkumar (virtual)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Peter Spawn, Jack Bergstrom, Brittany Nammour

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Christopher Haley, Sustainability Manager

### **Public Input**

No public input

### **New Member Introduction**

Welcome to Madlyn (has been living in Chelmsford for about 3 years and is an ESG consultant and sustainability expert) and Shre (has been living in Chelmsford for about 16 years and is interested in volunteering for the Town). Existing members did brief introductions as well.

### **Public Input Policy**

Town Council developed a Public Comment Policy, dated May 25, 2023 and the goal is to have a peaceable and orderly meeting while allowing for robust public comment. The policy has been placed in the CEAS Google Drive for review. If we have suggestions or changes, we can bring those comments to Badhri to present to Town Council/Town Manager.

### **Committee Liaison updates**

Bern participated with CCAT at the July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Town fair – 200 visitors to CCAT table. Senator Barrett spoke with Tom Amiro and Bern.

Badhri plans to meet with the Select Board in August to give them an update on our activities and also re-engage with the Planning Board on the Specialized Stretch Code.

Badhri met with Green Communities early in the summer and they spoke about the potential for a new Green Communities scoring system. It is likely that there will be changes around the ranking of communities within the group.

## **Website Discussion**

Chris has updated the CEAS website with information provided to him from Bern on the Homeworks program.

## **Update on MassSave Grant and HPC Selection Policy**

Homeworks and All-in-Energy met and Homeworks is taking the lead on the program. Homeworks is working on the website and provided a draft to Bern to review. Bern will provide a photo of Chelmsford for Homeworks to add to the website.

The Town office has sent the Town seal to Homeworks so it can go on documents. The letter to the Town from Paul Cohen is drafted. We just need website and then it can go out for signature. Homeworks created a 978 area code phone number for Town members to use.

We will plan to implement the program in the Fall. Anyone in Town who hasn't had an energy audit in last two years is eligible. Air sealing and insulation is at least 75% off.

Bern and Peter have talked to Alex Cunningham and Jon Morris about getting schools involved. Perhaps have a school classroom challenge?

## **PACE Program**

The Property Assisted Clean Energy (PACE) for MA is oriented towards commercial properties only and it addresses stretching out sustainability project payments over several years. It allows a business to apply to the state and once approved, businesses can pay for sustainability projects through your property tax bills. Chelmsford is not yet part of this program. We would need an article for Town Meeting to vote the program in. September 5<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to bring an article to the Select Board. Availability to PACE could be a Green Community priority.

## **Specialized Stretch Code Adoption**

Do we want to try to go to Select Board for Fall meeting to adopt the Specialized Stretch Code? Bern recommends deferring until Spring meeting and Dave Sperry concurs. We need to emphasize that it is only for new construction.

## **Net Zero Report Update**

Peter emailed NMCOCG to get an update on whether they can assist with updating the Net Zero Report. We need to update key points for fiscal year 2023.

## **Meeting Minutes**

The May 8<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes are available to be approved. May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes are approved and will be sent to the Town Clerk.

## **Miscellaneous Topics**

Dave Sperry has experience with the EyeOnWater program through an organization in Lexington. Is that something we want to look into for Chelmsford? Do we need smart meters?

Recycling Committee is supporting a Repair Café event in September and will have monthly repair clinics at the library.

September 30<sup>th</sup> is the Board of Health Fall Fair – CCAT and Homeworks will have a table there.

State of MA adopted new funding for affordable green housing.

### **August and September 2023 Meeting Date**

We will try to schedule a meeting for Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sustainability Manager Update**

Chris is starting a process to get funding for five new electric vehicle charging stations (4 super chargers at Town Hall and one at DPW). ChargePoint will have cords available for Tesla vehicles. Are there other locations around Town where they can go? Town can't put them on privately-owned properties but we can partner with businesses.

The Town is replacing two gasoline vehicles with EVs.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37.