

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2017

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee was held on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Concord Municipal Light Plant meeting room. CSEC members present were Jill Appel, Brad Hubbard-Nelson (chair), Bruce Blumberg, Bill Lehr (clerk), Janet Miller and Alan Whitney. Also present were Pamela Cady and Concord resident Doug Sharpe

See Slides (attachment #1, includes Agenda as first slide).

1. Welcome visitors and meeting logistics

- Meeting was convened at 7:07pm

2. Approval of minutes from recent meetings

- Minutes as amended were approved for the prior meetings on December 13, 2016, January 10, 24, and 31, 2017.

3. Next meetings and Announcements

- Monday, March 13 at 7pm at CMLP Public meeting room.
- Subsequent meetings for rest of year will start at 7pm on the Tuesday of the second week each month at the CMLP Public meeting room, unless it needs to be rescheduled, which will be announced if needed.
- The next three meetings will be April 11, May 9, and June 13.

4. Review of Cooler Concord Fair

- The Cooler Concord Fair was held at CCHS on February 4, 2017.
- All feedback confirms that the Fair was an overwhelming success. Overall feedback and experience were very positive.
- Estimate that 430 families attended. There were 184 that pre-registered and of those approximately 2/3rds came. Good participation was obtained from all of the Concord schools. Alcott, Thoreau, and Willard met or were close to the 20% participation goal. About 5% of the participants were from other communities.
- The Carbon Points estimator calculated 680,000 points were committed to in aggregate, representing a potential savings of 325 tons of green house gases, representing a potential annual savings of \$47,587. This is a lower bound estimate because glitches and incomplete processing (at this point) of the data means not all of the commitments were captured. Additional results are discussed in the slides.
- Some lessons learned and thoughts regarding what might have been done better for future reference:

- Electronic process worked reasonably well, but not perfect. Some software bugs. Scanning the forms proved to be important, but not all forms were scanned or filled out.
- There were requests for a map of the booths at the event, and having one at the front of the room might have been a good idea.
- Volunteers did not give out enough of the one-pagers. Had more copies than we needed. Would have helped to have had a training session with the volunteers the night before to get everyone to understand check-in/check-out process.
- Website: the plan is to post all materials on-line. Goal is to send email to everyone who attended or registered with a PDF of the form attached for everyone who checked out with a completed form. Bartlett is expected to do the site design work, and that initial site will use WordPress but Drupal or another package may be used later.
- It was agreed that everyone should send the electronic files used to produce graphics and hand-outs for the Fair to Brad, with the expectation that this will provide much of the content for the website. Want to make it easy for Fair attendees and other folks to access the content from the fair easily.
- CSEC wants to follow through on commitments that folks made to ensure that the projected savings are actually realized.
- Budget: There are still some invoices that need to be paid. For example, at Concord Printing. T-shirts, etc. Those with unpaid invoices should send them to Brad. The cost of Concord Rec staff support during the fair was about \$500.
- A meeting is scheduled with Diane Rigby to update here on how CSEC may work with the schools and follow-up on future plans. Want to engage with Dr. Hunter, the new school superintendent to ensure she is aware of CSEC.
- In light of the fact that participation from all of the schools was quite good, but the attendance records were imperfect, Bruce Blumberg moved that each of the schools receive an award of \$1,000 from the Fair with 50% of that directed toward sustainability projects. Bill Lehr seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Sign-ups: Not all of the commitments have been fully accounted for since not all were captured electronically. For example, the Mass Save booth captured sign-ups for programmable thermostats, energy audits, etcetera. Will need to follow-up to capture who signed up at Mass Save booth and others which captured sign-ups that were not entered electronically.
- Post-Fair communications: email connectivity and public announcements in paper and other PR. Get website up quickly.

5. Reports on Other meetings

- Jill Appel and Brad Hubbard-Nelson met with Chris Whelan to follow up on plans for how to disburse the \$90k budget that for rebates to follow-up on Cooler Concord Fair commitments. The expectation is that the model to be followed will mimic the process for LED light bulb rebates. An allowance will need to be made to cover CMLP rebate administrative costs.
- Follow-up discussions will be needed for other types of commitments and how to provide incentives, including for :

- Programmable thermostats: What incentives to get folks to adopt? How to follow-up on commitments from Fair?
- Lawnmowers: How to incentivize replacement of gas lawnmowers? How to follow-up with it?
- Electric vehicles: Check with CMLP plans to provide separate meters for EVs. Check with Brian Foulds and Chris Whelan about \$300 fee for additional meter and how that might be covered or offset with lower rates.
- In several areas, MassSave provides more generous incentives than CMLP. When MassSave was set up as a renewable trust, CMLP did not join. The members are mostly the investor-owned utilities.
- Need to discuss allocation of Pamela Cady time for CSEC work. For fair follow-up CSEC needs up to 10 hours/week, more than has been allotted. Will be discussed with Dave Wood and Jan Aceti.

6. Energy Futures Task Force Report, Recommendations, and Town Meeting Article

- The EFTF has a draft final report at website. The EFTF charter was extended to March 15 by the Select Board. The EFTF is calling for substantial reduction in Concord energy use to meet the targets in the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 and the Paris Climate Agreement of 2016.
- EFTF calling for 25% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020, and 80% by 2050. The baseline is 2008 and these goals apply to Town as a whole (not just the government).
- Article 51 calls for Town to adopt general goal and hire an energy director and set measurable targets and assess progress toward those targets on an annual basis.
- CSEC expects to write a letter in support of Article 51 which will be voted on at the April 24th Town meeting.

7. Other Town Meeting Articles

- CCHS Landfill remediation? Not discussed.
- Junction Village Budget proposal: CSEC discussed potential that CSEC may support the proposal if the appropriation specifies that the project will be a Net Zero project which is not the current plan. It is possible that this could be good candidate for geothermal. Brad Hubbard-Nelson will follow-up with Chris Whelan to find out what plans are.

8. Public comments

- No public comments were offered.

9. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 9:19pm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Lehr, CSEC clerk

List of Attachments

- 1) CSEC 170213 slides.pdf