

# **COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE**

## *Meeting Minutes*

*Thursday February 21, 2019*

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability Energy Committee was held on February 21, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. CSEC members present were Janet Miller (Chair), Julie Kleyn (Clerk), Bob Shatten, Karen Gibson, Jerry Frenkil and Doug Sharpe.

### **1. Welcome and approval of minutes.**

There were no visitors. Jerry moved to approve the minutes of January 8. Karen seconded. All were in favor.

### **2. Chair's report & announcements**

- a. Next CSEC meeting will be April 2
- b. Janet said that the Electric Vehicle (EV) Working Group is continuing to work on onsite charging for multi-unit dwellings. Janet announced that the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust (settlement money for fraud) will provide the state of MA with \$23 million, to be applied to electric vehicle promotion such as public charging stations, multi-unit dwelling charging programs, and EV buses.

### **3. Sustainability Director's report (Kate Hanley)**

Kate could not attend but Janet is meeting with her on February 22.

- a. Janet informed the group that the MAPC Accelerating Climate Resiliency Grant cannot be used for the upcoming Sustainable Landscaping Fair (SLF), but that the Town will pay for the printing of fliers and other promotional materials, also table hire (estimated 12).
- b. Janet reminded all CSEC members to sign up for tabling for the National Grid Community Initiative (NGCI). The committee is obligated to promote the NGCI at 12 events planned throughout 2019. Kate sent out a Doodle poll and asks that all members volunteer for a couple of events.

Doug asked how we are to know exactly what to tell the public about the Initiative and Julie suggested that Kate prepare a one-pager to be given together with NGCI printed materials to help CSEC volunteers at the table.

#### **4. Cooler Concord Sustainable Landscaping Fair (SLF)**

- a. Janet confirmed that the location will be Willard Elementary School, the date May 18 and the time 10am to 2pm (with Open Gardens 1-3pm). She asked that all CSEC members add this date to their calendars and do their best to attend and help at the event.
- b. Janet shared with the group the names of organizations that CSEC has invited by email to table at the SLF. 9 have committed so far.

Other suggestions made:

- Tower Hill Botanical Gardens (Julie will contact)
- Hutchins Farm
- Gaining Ground
- Peter Alden
- The Concord Museum (who organizes the Concord Garden Tours in early June)
- Organizations that control wildlife?
- Restaurant waste and horse manure (from local horse farms) for composting?

Julie said it might be good for Janet to cite some organizations that have already committed in her invitational email to organizations, in order to lend credibility.

- c. 2 kids' activities are planned (a "bee hotel" and possibly a rain gauge). Karen and Julie have been looking into food trucks too.
- d. Fliers, emails, the Bookshop window, a guest commentary in the Concord Journal, a Cooler Concord newsletter, and school outreach constitute publicity at present. Possibly posters too although these are expensive.
- e. Kate Hanley would like CSEC to submit a budget so that she can allocate funds to the Fair

#### **5. MassEnergize (Brad Hubbard-Nelson)**

HeatSmart Carlisle/Concord/Lincoln update: Doug Sharpe spoke in Brad's absence. Brad and Doug are working on a website landing page for HeatSmartCCL hosted on Wordpress.com (to continue promoting heat pumps.

Bob Lawson has completed seven new informational videos about HeatSmart which Brad has shared with CSEC and which will be posted to the website. Doug stressed that rebates continue to be important.

#### **6. Update on CMS window insulation project**

Julie spoke briefly about the status of the Middle School storm window project. The last of three phases with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students is approaching. Lead teacher David Davidson has assigned the window measurements and built the frames. Final construction of the storm window inserts will be soon and then the students can record temperatures and better understand the principles of heat transfer and the value of simple insulation for energy and cost savings.

## **7. Liaison reports**

Jerry Frenkil had not been able to attend the CAAB meeting.

Bob Shatten attended a recent CMLP meeting (also Brad and Brian Foulds attended) where discussion focused on renewable energy credits (RECs). Time-of-day metering for EV chargers and budget were also discussed. One challenge is that if the Town conserves power then CMLP will lose money. The group discussed solar and SRECs for some minutes.

Jerry and Bob asked who is advocating solar in town. In the past, residential has been the biggest focus, but now this focus is including commercial too. Janet said that until better storage for uploading solar energy is achieved, it is not viable to have large arrays.

Jerry said that CAAB wants to see bold actions in addressing climate change. He added that all utilities' business plans are challenged by the prospect of decreasing revenues due to efficiency plans, but see that EV adoption presents an opportunity to counteract that potential loss of income. Janet pointed out that the CMLP is actively promoting EV adoption through the EV miles program, a credit on monthly bills for charging EVs off-peak, and a rebate on the installation of home chargers.

## **8. Public comments**

None

## **9. Adjourn**

Julie motioned to adjourn at 8:50pm and Jerry seconded.

*Minutes taken by Julie Kleyn (clerk).*