

**Energy Futures Task Force 3/9/12 – recorded by Elise Woodward, Clerk
Minutes Approved: March 16, 2017**

Attending: Pam Hill, Chair, John Dalton, Dan Gainsboro Wally Johnston, Brian Foulds, Elise Woodward

Citizens: Laura Scott, CMLP Liaison, Boozha Cookman, Sue Richardson

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

Meeting minutes from meetings of February 2, February 16, February 27, and March 2 were approved as noted.

Correspondence: The task force is continuing to receive public comments on the draft report. They will be considered for incorporation into the final draft. The Select Board liaisons have indicated that the Select Board intends to vote to accept the EFTF recommendations on 4/3.

Chair's Report

Notes from the Public Meeting of February 1 will be included in the Appendix. Elise will draft minutes for the pre-meeting.

The EFTF has elected to hold an information session for the public on March 29 in the Hearing Room of the Townhouse at 7:00 PM.

The EFTF will present the final report to the Select Board at their meeting on 4/3.

The next EFTF meeting will be 3/16.

Discussion followed regarding response to the Fin Com questions from the Hearing on 2/27. A memo was drafted and is attached to these minutes.

A brief discussion regarding gaining support from the Select Board and Light Board and FinCom began. It was determined to continue this discussion as well as strategies for public outreach at the next meeting.

Public Comment

Boozha mentioned Lexington's engagement of a consultant to work with their energy committee to create a plan with town departments and interim goals for approximately \$80,000. They also engaged a consultant to create baseline data for approximately \$10,000.

A suggestion was received to highlight a paragraph on page 39 of the report or move it forward in the narrative.

Concord CAN had a question about what the per person cost of the consultant would be if the warrant article is approved. (Answer is approximately \$5.)

The remainder of the meeting focused on preparations for the final report including edits. The discussion included: a comment was received that the report is too long, use the Town Government Study report as an example, specific discussion of the report and identifying sections to move to the Appendix.

It was agreed that Wally would format the appendix including moving prescribed paragraphs to the appendix and then forward the revised document to the committee members who will each edit their sections and return the edits to Wally for incorporating into a final draft. This draft will be sent to the Chair for final syntax edits and minor formatting before the "final read" next week.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Memo to Finance Committee

To: Linda Miller, Chair
From: Pam Hill, Chair, Energy Future Task Force (EFTF)
Date: 9 March 2017
Re: Warrant Article 51

The following questions were received at the FinCom hearing on February 27. For clarification, the EFTF prepared the following responses.

1. Will the new Director position require staff members?

The article proposes no additional funding for staff members. The director-level position has been identified to indicate the importance policymaking will play for strategic changes in the Town's decision-making for greenhouse gas emission reductions.

2. What about the schools? How will they contribute?

The report addresses the sustainable initiatives the schools have undertaken in improving the performance of the elementary and high school buildings resulting in energy reductions and reduced fuel costs within their budgets. As partner with the Town, the schools have replaced boilers at Sanborn and Peabody with funds from Green Communities grants, as an example. The overall environmental benefits from low-emitting electricity will accrue to all parties who purchase electricity from CMLP.

3. How will the "hockey stick" curve be prevented near the end of the goal period?

The recommendation to target 100% renewable electricity by 2030 is designed as an interim milestone to prevent the sharp upward curve near the end of the goal period. The specific implementation tactics to achieve the goals with additional interim milestones will be developed by the director and consultant in conjunction with the Town Manager and CMLP.

4. Where will we be in 2020? How rapidly can we move?

By 2020, we anticipate that Concord will have reduced its GHG emissions by approximately 20%, short of the MA Global Warming Solutions Act requirement for 25% reduction. While the EFTF cannot precisely quantify this percentage, we have estimated that Concord will have reductions near 30% by 2030 with the recommendations in place. The baseline data and on-going measurement requirements will be a core element of the work of the director and consultant to put Concord on the path to meet the GWSA requirements.

5. Is the \$100,000 salary reasonable?

The Task Force's research in 2016 indicated that similar job descriptions for Directors of Sustainability had salaries in the range of \$80,000-120,000. We anticipate the salary for this position must fit into the established salary range that exists in Concord. The reason for this free-cash funding request is to allow the Town Manager to move forward rapidly toward establishing a plan to meet these goals. If the article is approved, it will provide one-time funding, so that the Town Manager must incorporate funding in

future years into his budget or combine the job description with an existing position. Lexington has recently engaged a consultant for approximately \$80,000 to work with town departments to develop an energy plan with interim goals. The Town Manager is considering partnering with Lexington for the consultant position.

6. How many towns in MA are doing this?

There is a rising tide in MA focusing on initiatives similar to the recommendations proposed by the EFTF. In May 2015 the 14 cities and towns of the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition pledged to achieve net zero carbon-free status by 2050 with interim implementation steps. Locally, Lexington, Acton, Cambridge, Somerville, Boston all have developed climate action plans to address these same goals.

There are 41 communities with municipal light plants that are considering de-carbonization strategies. The report summarizes some of these (Belmont, Concord, Hingham, Mansfield, Shrewsbury, Sterling, Wellesley) in the appendix. The report also identifies several communities across the US that have adopted net-zero or other non-emitting electrical supplies.

New proposed legislation is filed in the MA legislature each session with goals of deriving all energy from renewable sources.