

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on June 5, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. CSEC members present were Doug Sharpe (chair), Janet Miller, Julie Kleyn (clerk), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, and Karen Gibson. Also present were Linda Escobedo and Cynthia Rainey.

1. **Welcome**

Doug welcomed Select Board member, Linda Escobedo, and School Committee member, Cynthia Rainey.

2. **Approval of minutes from May 14 meeting**

There was a brief discussion on procedure for approval of minutes and Janet recommended that minutes and agenda be emailed to all CSEC members prior to each committee meeting along with a reminder of meeting date. Brad motioned to approve the May 14 minutes, Karen seconded. All approved.

3. **Next meetings**

Brad offered to send out a Doodle poll to establish dates for July and August meetings.
September 17 (tentative)

4. **Chair's report**

Doug requested assistance in leading July and August CSEC meetings as he will not be in town. Brad and Janet said they may be able to cover these. Doug said there is an important talk on June 15 at St Anne's: How to talk about carbon reduction so that people will listen. (see Appendix). He strongly recommended that CSEC members attend. Linda E informed the group that Steven Crane from Long Meadow will be the new Town Manager with an August 12 start.

5. **Review of need ed CSEC liaison roles**

Jerry Frenkil is currently the liaison to the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) and Bob Shatten is liaison to CMLP. Brad HN is liaison to the Sustainable Schools group (Janet is also involved with this).

Doug felt it was important to additionally have liaisons to the Select Board, the School Committee, the Planning Board and possibly others. Brad said he would be happy to be a liaison to the School Committee as long as it required only that he look over their agenda to see if there was something pertinent to CSEC. It was suggested that Doug ask Sharon Jones to be liaison to the planning board, Doug agreed.

Janet made the point that if liaison members cannot attend the CSEC meeting to report, they should email their notes to the group. She also said that if any liaison cannot make their meeting with their liaison committee, they should alert CSEC as someone may be able to attend in their stead.

6. **Director of Sustainability 's report.**

Kate Hanley was not present.

7. **Discussion about 2019/2020 committee focus, Goals and Objectives**

Doug shared his ideas about Town organizations, committees and projects that he felt CSEC should be aware of or become involved with, as follows:

- The sustainability goals of Concord's Long Range Strategic Plan Report (see Appendix). Should CSEC be helping to implement these? Doug made the point that sustainability is a goal in many areas of the CLRSP. Linda added that the Select Board is working hard to identify and prioritize the goals of the Report and they are now published on the Town website, although work is ongoing. When Doug asked how CSEC can learn from the Select Board and help implement these new goals, Linda responded that the Select Board will be translating each priority into a next step, for each area of the Report, and will then reach out to the relevant Town committees for help with implementation. Brad said he felt CLRSP goals were more about town planning and possibly came under CAAB's charge, rather than CSEC's. Janet said that CAAB focuses more on policy and CSEC on action. She added that CSEC can come up with sustainability goals that mesh with the CLRSP's goals.
- Energy Future Task Force report, recommendations from 2018 (SORRY, NO IDEA WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT THIS)
- DOER's new MLP Residential Solar Rebate Program. Brad suggested that Jill Appel come and speak to CSEC to review the previous solarization promotion.
- Doug asked how CSEC as a group can be an advocate for low-income housing sustainability goals.
- Doug said we need to put materials together for planning board projects, a sustainability playbook for contractors and architects.
- Relevant 2019/2020 renewable energy MA legislative agenda items. Doug felt it was important that CSEC be in agreement about which items to support. Doug said that when relevant legislative issues arise, there should be a representative within the committee to stay abreast of developments and report to the committee. Janet said Fran Cummings sent her information about a meeting with Tammy Gaveer (SPELLING?) regarding a dozen or so bills that the Sierra Club would like CSEC to support.

- Brad asked whether in our advisory role to the Town, we can show support for policy. Linda said Kate Hanley is our conduit. If CSEC has a position, it needs to be presented to Kate who will present it to the Select Board. CSEC does not have a strong standing on this.
- Doug proposed the development of a Concord residents' renewable energy guide (pamphlet). Brad liked this idea.
- Doug felt that CSEC could help create greater awareness among residents about the town-wide goals to reduce GHG emissions. He suggested a simple poster to help residents focus on Article 51 goals. Brad noted that CMLP's 2030 goal for 100% renewable electricity has been accelerated to 2023.
- Doug also felt strongly that CSEC should support CAAB, and said this is something Kate Hanley also wants to see. His impression from a recent meeting was that, while CAAB have a policy-making role and are working on a 2-prong resiliency plan (Kate Hanley wrote the RFP) involving mitigation of problems and adaptive resiliency, they do not, as a group, have staff to implement ideas and actions. Doug shared a list of what CAAB is focusing on at present. Transportation is one topic and Brad added that Brian Foulds (CAAB chair) wants the Concord Public Schools to invest in more electric buses. Janet said this is work in progress and Linda added that when the Select Board asked senior managers to identify priorities in town, the proposed CrossTown Connect topped the list. Brad said we are already helping with mitigation efforts (EVs, heat pumps, sustainable landscaping etc). Brad felt that CSEC's task is more about creative community outreach.
- Doug cited a number of projects that CSEC should be aware of and possibly work with such as the 2016 Greenhouse Inventory, the 2017 xxxxx (COULDN'T READ THIS IN DOUG'S NOTES) Mitigation Plan , Envision Concord, 2019 MVP Planning Grant Reports, MAGIC Climate Change Resilience Plans, 2011 Sustainability principles, 2013 DOER Design Green Community and the Town's electric bus project.
- Janet said that Tammy Gaveer had urged CSEC to connect with other environmental groups in other communities, and Cynthia Rainey recommended liaising with Janet Rothrock who is well-connected.
- Linda said it would be useful to committee members to review CSEC's charge. Doug read the mission statement but Janet pointed out that the charge was rewritten in 2018 and will send the revised one to Doug.

8. CSEC letter to Select Board on Biomass Power (Brad Hubbard-Nelson)

Brad shared with the group his objections to the proposal that biomass wood chips be added to the renewable portfolio, currently being considered by Governor Baker. Brad explained that biomass is very destructive and not renewable in the short term. Brad read a letter he had drafted to the Select Board asking for their support to persuade CMLP not to buy biomass power from Palmer Biomass. The committee voted and agreed to endorse the letter which Brad will now send to the Select Board. (See Appendix.)

9. Update on the June 8th Clean Home Heating & Cooling Expo (Brad Hubbard-Nelson)

Brad said promotion has not been as strong as he would have liked, but the event has been advertised in Concord, Carlisle, Lincoln and Wayland.

Brad described the scheduling and layout of the event, with tables for vendors, a sign-up area for energy audits, and a public presentation in the CCHS Learning Commons (20-minute presentation on heat pumps, 15 minutes of testimonials and a Q&A session with coaches and installers).

Doug shared some information about the importance of sealing ducts prior to heat pump installation. (See Appendix.)

10. Wrap-up of the Sustainable Landscaping Fair (Janet, Karen, Brad and Julie)

Overall, the Fair was deemed a success and Janet said there had been a wide variety of organizations (approx. 22), with 27 tables in total including raffle, plant sales and kids' activities. There were an estimated 150-170 visitors, and many have expressed hopes that the Fair will happen again. CSEC members unanimously agreed it would be important to continue this valuable community outreach on the topic of sustainable landscaping and that sharing our information and contacts with another organization such as Mark Myles' new biodiversity group (who might be able to spearhead a second fair with CSEC taking a supportive role) would be a good solution.

11. CCHS solar canopy proposal

Janet said there will be no solar canopy until CMLP has figured out how to store electricity. Doug pointed out that other towns have solved this problem and Brad said it's very solvable, CMLP just have to decide to do it, and it will cost money. Janet said other towns are on the national grid system and have more funding for this.

Brad added that CMLP has not had an assistant director and this has caused delays with projects but also that Jan Aceti is 100% on board with reducing emissions.

12. Liaison reports.

None.

13. Adjourn.

Brad proposed adjourning at 9:07pm and Karen seconded. All approved.

Appendix

[How to Talk about Climate Change so People will Engage](#)
[CSEC's Review of Concord's Long Range Strategic Plan](#)

Letter to CMLP manager and Select Board re Biomass Power
Aeroseal Duct Sealing Product Review