

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 12, 2020

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a video conference meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on June 12, 2020 at 2:00 pm via Zoom. CSEC members present were Doug Sharpe (Chair), Janet Miller, Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Julie Kleyn (clerk), Karen Gibson, Bob Shatten, Jerry Frenkil and Sharon Jones. Also present were Kate Hanley, Brian Foulds, Terri Ackerman and Andy and Pamela Dritt.

1. Welcome visitors:

Doug welcomed guests Brian Foulds, Terri Ackerman, Kate Hanley and Andy and Pamela Dritt and briefly checked in with everyone to ask how they were doing during the pandemic. Doug asked Terri whether the Select Board has been regularly meeting and Terri replied that it had.

2. Approval of minutes from 2/20:

Sharon and Bob had minor changes which Julie will incorporate into the 2/20 minutes. Janet moved to approve the minutes as amended, Karen seconded, all approved.

3. HeatSmart Alliance update (Brad):

- There are now 17 member communities in the HeatSmart Alliance. Organization has improved during the pandemic with whole group and sub-group monthly meetings.
- Very good attendance at the HeatSmart event on February 29 (Harvey Wheeler). About 120 participants. Charlie Parker said it was the best town event he's been to. Terri said it was an excellent event and very well organized. Brad said that publicity was key and that this had been strong for the February event. Bob Zogg made a presentation at the event that Brad will share with CSEC (Attachment 1).
- As a direct result of the event, the Alliance has received more coaching enquiries and residents are requesting more quotes from installers.
 - Organizational structure adopted, policies, individual and municipal member agreements
 - Scope: air-source and ground-source heat pumps in residential/commercial/institutional buildings within Mass
 - Goals: 2030: 50 member communities displacing 50% of home/building heating loads with energy-efficient heat pumps
 - Not decided whether to formalize relationship with MassEnergize [non-profit – concerns relating to](#) goals and policies
 - Modeling and performance working group - how to account greenhouse gas emissions consistently comparing heat pumps with fossil
 - Also working groups on marketing/communications, installer relations, advocacy, information [technology](#)

4. Update on Mass Energize (Brad)

- MassEnergize is a non-profit 501(C)3 organization founded by Brad and others in 2019. MassEnergize.org
- Community Web portal: community.massenergize.org with community sites for Wayland, Newton, Framingham, JCAN and now Concord. Soon Lexington, Winchester.
- Plan is 20 communities in 2021, aiming for 100 communities across Mass in 2022.
- Concord site using the CoolerConcord.org URL and brand, to make use of the newsletter and Facebook page
- Managing 2 software contractors plus 3 paid summer interns (2 through MassCEC), plus several high school interns from CCHS (4 for site content+promotion, 3 for programming)
- Data Working Group - working on tools for compiling state data on solar, vehicles, heat pumps and more for all the communities.
- Community leads group - teamwork at a higher level; lots of great ideas from Newton
- Site demonstration, need for some additional help to update actions content to be consistent with Your Sustainable Home Now
- The Sunflower Challenge – [distributing Sunflower seeds from several local businesses](#)
- Brad stressed the importance of connecting with other towns in order for us to be able to share ideas and projects.

5. Review of the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (Kate and Brian):

- Kate recommended all CSEC members watch the 7 min [YouTube](#) video that the Town has recently produced. She also urged all committee members to submit their feedback.
- Brian added that it's important that, even if CSEC is not listed specifically, the hope would be for CSEC and the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) to be involved with every aspect of the plan. Blueprints, campaigns and education is what the plan needs help with, this is CSEC's role.
- Doug expressed concern over the lack of context for the report's large numbers. Can the report be made more accessible for all by providing equivalent examples that are more readily understood?
- The final draft will be published in July.
- Julie asked Kate where the document will be located and how people will know about it. Julie also recommended there be an at-a-glance executive summary for residents who may not read the entire document. Terri agreed. Kate said this was a good idea. Brian pointed out that page 12 has a good summary.
- Brad suggested the document [use natural gas usage values from National Grid as a key metric](#), because the numbers will change significantly and a real difference will be perceived over time.
- Bob asked Kate to what extent have residents made changes to reduce GHGs in their daily lives?
- Brad said there needs to be a big push on solar. It was suggested there be an action group responsible for evaluating and identifying homes and businesses for solar?

Kate said this is not currently in the plan. Brian said the CCHS letter a few years back was highly effective at inspiring residents to take action with solar. Perhaps google maps could help perform an aerial review and identify suitability for solar, and another letter to residents could be written and mailed by CCHS students.

- Doug asked if there would be more videos associated with the report and Kate and Brian agreed this would be good.
- Jerry felt the report's goals for CMLP were not aggressive enough, especially regarding battery storage. Jerry asked why 2022 is slated to be the start of the plan, not now.
- Brad asked for clarification on the tracking success in the blueprint section "outputs v outcomes". Kate responded that outputs are tangibles - a report or a regulation - and outcome is not necessarily quantitative but more about results.
- Brian said CAAB wanted the report to be more technical and Kate said it has to be accessible to all residents.
- Janet pointed out that gas leaks are currently tracked on safety not volume. Brian responded that the quantity of gas leaks can be ascertained and these can subsequently be tracked and mitigated.
- Sharon says one important environmental topic absent in the report is meat (farming and consumption). Brian responded that Scope 3 is not included here, too difficult to quantify. Actions are currently focused on areas of town that we are measuring, said Kate. Brian cautioned that as soon as we add topics that are not being addressed, that becomes people's focus.
- Bob says road building materials should be specifically mentioned in the report.
- Doug said the climate plan needs work and CSEC should look specifically at the 11 areas related to CSEC's purview. Doug will share a document with CSEC about this.

6. Plan for the election of CSEC officers:

- Janet confirmed that there was one spot open on the CSEC committee and that there was a list of interested parties. Janet offered to help Doug fill the vacancy, and Kate said she would forward this list to Doug.
- Doug asked Julie if she would continue as clerk, Julie said yes.

7. Moving forward, meeting plans:

- Doug asked if the committee wishes to continue with monthly zoom meetings. The answer was yes.
- *Next meeting: July 17th @ 3pm*
- Terri added that Town meeting will probably be in September.

8. *Your Sustainable Home Now* project

- Doug asked whether the committee should consider posters or a town-wide postcard mailing about Your Sustainable Home, but Julie said it would be better to roll out all the project elements around the same time rather than in isolation/out of context. Kate said postcard mailings are very expensive.

- Brad said he would try to find a date for the adult ed course in late Sept. Brad said maybe online coaching should be a bigger push.
- Doug and Sharon raised the possibility of a webinar. Kate said a series of short webinars could be really good. Doug said these webinars could be structured around case studies.
- Brad suggested each CSEC member think of a 20-minute (plus Q and A) webinar topic plus an expert or two to invite. Brad suggested a catchy name.

9. Public comments

None

10. Adjourn

Brad motioned to adjourn at 4pm. Janet seconded. All were in favor.

Attachments:

1. Bob Zogg [HeatSmart Alliance presentation](#), Feb 29 community event.