

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 17, 2020

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a VIRTUAL meeting (via Zoom) of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held online on Friday July 17, 2020 at 3pm. CSEC members present were Doug Sharpe (chair), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Julie Kleyn (clerk), Karen Gibson, Janet Miller, Bob Shatten, Jerry Frenkil and Sharon Jones. Also present were Kate Hanley, Terri Ackerman, Brian Foulds and Tanya Galius.

1. Welcome visitors:

Doug welcomed visitors, Terri Ackerman (Select Board), Brian Foulds (CAAB) and Tanya Galius (resident).

2. Approval of minutes from June 12

The group briefly discussed minor edits from Janet and Brad. Brad clarified his edits. Janet motioned to approve as amended. Sharon seconded. All approved.

3. Next meeting: August 27 at 7pm

Kate will send a Google calendar invitation and Zoom invitation to the committee

4. Preparation for Town Meeting, what announcements are needed

Terri updated the group about Town Meeting as follows:

- Date: September 13 at 1pm (rain date September 14).
- Meeting will be shorter (approx. 2 hours) and held outside.
- Article 40 has been postponed.
- Only essential/urgent articles will be presented.
- Prior to Town Meeting, there will be public hearings (August 17, 18 and 19)
- An information packet will be sent to all Concord residents.
- The Town's website contains detailed information about how Town Meeting will be conducted.

Doug asked whether CSEC should be represented at the meeting and Terri replied that there is no obligation because we are not sponsoring any articles.

Doug asked whether CSEC has announcements for Town Meeting. Brad said only if we have committee support for any of the planning board articles.

Janet asked whether article 40 is essential and Brad replied that it is important but not essential. If it had been on the agenda, CSEC should have supported it.

5. HeatSmart Alliance update (Brad)

- Voted on officers. Bob Zogg (Carlisle) will be facilitator; Brad, treasurer
- Kim and Brad have been coaching residents
- A draft budget for income and expenses was presented (by Brad)
- Jan Aceti leading coaching working group. She reported that CMLP will contract Abode Energy Management to provide Heat Pump program services for their rebate program. They may hire community coaches (currently volunteer) to provide coaching services (currently Brad Hubbard-Nelson and Kim Slack).
- Group making progress on several areas:
 - Updating web site
 - Coaching issues (liability and insurance)
 - Discussing performance issues of systems related to sizing of multi-zone systems

6. MassEnergize update (Brad)

- This is the non-profit 501(C)3 organization founded last year, home page MassEnergize.org.
- Three interns hired through MassCEC internship program are doing great work, updating web platform and producing Playbooks for several communities
- Working with the Cooler Communities group which has been doing (until Covid) sustainability fairs modeled after the Cooler Concord fair at schools in several communities in western MA. ME has developed the [CarbonSaver](#) mobile-optimized web tool which will replace the spreadsheet calculator we used.
- Community forum meets monthly of group leaders from ME communities (Wayland, Newton, Concord, Lexington, Framingham, JCAN)
- Issue we are finding is that visitors don't make profiles. Using Google Analytics to analyze how people interact with site.
- Will be integrating social media share and other features to improve this.
- Cooler Concord group consists of Brad, Janet, Karen, Gilda Gussin, Susan Frey, and 4 CCHS interns. Working on content for the CoolerConcord.org site and social media (Facebook, Instagram). A lot of work to be done in the next month..
- Terri thanked Brad for all his work on the HeatSmart Alliance and MassEnergize

7. EV update (Janet)

- Possibly a *Ride & Drive* event in the fall, but doubtful.
- Multi-Unit Dwelling (MUD) update: Riverwalk and Center Village have engineers' cost estimate.
- At the Millbrook condos on Keyes Road, engineers have started work but been delayed because of Covid-19.
- Once the work is completed, CMLP will decide how to subsidize installations.

8. CSEC's role in the Town's Climate Action & Resiliency Plan

Doug shared his spreadsheet highlighting the 11 areas of the Plan specifically relating to CSEC's charge.

9. Webinars on Sustainable Homes (Fall 2020)

- Brad suggested "homework" for next meeting: CSEC members script a 1-minute overview and a 7-minute video of their assigned topic (from the Sustainable Home pamphlet/project), source pictures, get people interested in it. Brad and Julie will work together to create a template for this for CSEC members to use.
- Kate said residents can post Q&A on FaceBook in advance that can then be answered at the end of the webinar
- Terri said we should work with Erin Stevens and Minuteman Multi Media.
- Brad suggested a Google form for residents to ask questions and make suggestions.
- Doug said there need to be multiple channels of communication
- Doug liked the idea of facilitating an online dialog amongst residents, a type of forum.
- Janet suggested holding first webinar then asking attendees/residents in Q&A what topics they would like to cover next.
- Doug suggested creating a bank of 8 short videos (30 minutes each) and then conducting a Zoom meeting of 8 sessions. The group preferred the idea of co-hosting (2 members) a session.

10. Distribution/targeted placement of the Sustainable Home posters/pamphlets

- This is challenging during the pandemic because nobody is inside buildings (like libraries, community centers)
- Could put up posters in the Concord Bookshop and restaurants
- Kate says mailings are very expensive
- Doug suggested emailing the Sustainable Home pdf to residents who might be interested in the webinars. Important to take advantage of as many communication channels as possible.
- Doug liked the idea of someone (CSEC member) holding the poster while talking, makes the engagement more personal. Janet did not like this idea.
- Tanya added that natural resource preservation is a topic very important to her.
- Tanya also confirmed that article 40 was a no-motion by the Select Board (as agreed in their meeting on June 29) and has been postponed.
- Tanya, a musician, offered to create the music for the Sustainable Home webinars.

11. Adjourn

Doug moved to adjourn and Janet seconded. The meeting ended at 5pm