

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 20, 2021

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on July 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. CSEC members present were Jerry Frenkil (Chair), Karen Gibson (Clerk), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Sharon Jones, Julie Kleyn, Janet Miller, and Douglas Sharpe. Also present were Jan Aceti (CMLP), Matt Johnson (Select Board), Pamela Dritt, and Andy Puchrik.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Jerry, CSEC Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

2. Meeting Minutes

Janet offered clarifying edits to the minutes from the June 17th CSEC meeting. Brad moved to approve the minutes as edited. Janet seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Update

Jerry reported on the status of CSEC membership.

Matt Johnson laid out exceptions under which a member can remain on the board beyond his/her term.

Current member terms:

- Brad's second term is ending.
- First term ending: Sharon, Karen, and Bob. The Select Board must renominate and approve these members. Matt will confirm whether CSEC members must be sworn in again once the Select Board approves the appointments.
- Second term ends 2022: Janet
- First term ends 2022: Jerry
- First term ends 2023: Hani
- Second term ends 2023: Doug
- Julie is moving out of Concord so will have to vacate her position
- Jerry has received a few green cards for CSEC that he will review. CSEC members should forward names of anyone they know who might be a good fit/interested in joining CSEC to Jerry.

4. Update: Concord Goes Electric program

Brad reported briefly on the Concord Goes Electric Program. Kate Hanley and Jan Aceti put together a work schedule for the next year. The goal is the conversion of more than a few 100 homes/year from fossil to heat pumps. There are still barriers - informational and financial, but CMLP and Abode activities have

sped up the rate of converting homes. The Concord Goes Electric group did not meet this month.

5. Electrify Concord Event

Jane Aceti reported on the Climate Friendly Homes and Vehicles event that will take place on Monday, September 13th from 7:00-8:30 pm at Harvey Wheeler. The event will focus on EVs and heat pumps and offer opportunities for participants to speak with coaches and Concord residents about their experiences. CMLP will have information about their rebates. Jan requested CSEC's help in promoting the event.

- CSEC members volunteered to help get the word out through social media, promotional materials, bookstore displays, mailing lists, Journal articles, etc.
- A few CSEC members will take part in meet 'n greets.
- CSEC will distribute the CSEC Electric home pamphlet.
- Sharon suggested CSEC members wear nametags indicating that they are an EV owner or heat pump owner or both.
- Janet suggested that the Concord residents who were interviewed for the heat pump testimonials might also be interested in participating.

6. Strategy Discussion

Jerry reported on the results of the survey he took of CSEC members on their priorities for CSEC focus. Two priorities are clear:

- Develop a program to increase residential energy efficiency and electrification
- Engage the commercial sector

He noted that in working on these priorities, we might also employ some of the other program ideas, such as developing content for the Cooler Concord website and/or organizing a fair to support CSEC's drive to increase residential energy efficiency. Sharon pointed out that there are federal tax incentives for residences that are expiring at the end of next year, so focusing on residential first would make sense.

Janet suggested that CSEC could also invite someone from Newton to talk about their commercial sector activities.

Doug raised a question about what obstacles the commercial sector faces in Concord to making changes related to sustainability measures.

Jerry summed the discussion up and suggested that for the next two months, CSEC focus on supporting the September event. And during this time, also think in more detail about how to move forward on the identified priorities. After the September event, CSEC will prepare a draft plan for addressing the top two priorities, leveraging some of the other ideas identified.

7. Liaison Assignments and updates: Planning Board, CMLP, CAAB

Jerry raised the topic of the role of committee liaisons, and committee members discussed what the role entails—to be an observer, to facilitate information flow, to raise awareness within CSEC about what other groups are doing, to coordinate efforts. Jerry will draft basic guidelines to share with the committee members.

8. Update: EV Working Group

Janet reported on the EV Working Group meeting. CMLP will have an EV on display at the Library book sale on September 11th and at Discover West Concord Day on October 23rd. CSEC may want to table at these events.

9. Next meeting

Jerry will send a Doodle Poll for the August meeting date (to be held via Zoom).

10. Public Comment

Brad suggested that CSEC recommend to the Town Manager that someone from CSEC review the resumes for the new Director of Sustainability. Jerry will contact Kate Hodges.

Pamela suggested that CSEC strongly encourage developers of new construction developments in Concord to build all electric, and create an information packet on the financial benefits of heat pumps over fossil fuel furnaces and free blueprints for Net Zero building.

Pamela suggested that CSEC write to the Zoning Board of Appeals requesting that they deny the earth removal special permit, but the Zoning Board is no longer receiving public comment on the issue.

Matt suggested CSEC might develop informational materials for developers in Concord to make them aware of both the economic potential and Concord's commitment to electric infrastructure. He suggested that this might be a segment of the commercial sector that CSEC can focus on. CSEC could work with the Zoning Board of Appeals and the building permit process to ensure that informational materials are provided in time to make developers aware of these kinds of opportunities.

Doug made a motion to adjourn. Janet seconded. The Committee adjourned at 9:12 pm.