

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on July 31, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. CSEC members present were Janet Miller (chair), Julie Kleyn (clerk), Sam Lines and Jerry Frenkil. Also present was Kate Hanley.

1. *Welcome.*

Janet noted there were no visitors this month. She notified the group that CSEC has a new member, Karen Gibson (not present) who has worked with the DOE on the administrative management side.

2. *Approval of minutes.*

- No changes to last month's minutes.
- Julie moved to approve the June 19, 2018's minutes, Jerry seconded and CSEC unanimously approved the motion.

3. Next meeting: August 22nd provided we can get a quorum.

4. *Chair's report:*

Janet reported on the recent MCAN meeting, an event attended by many municipal light-plant people. Kate and Brad gave a co-presentation, discussed solar challenge, water bottle ban, green community, Cooler Concord Fair etc. Brad talked about CSEC's future goals.

Karl Rabego, Director of the PACE University Energy and Climate Center, gave an interesting talk. He mentioned a program in Texas where an energy audit was required every time a house was sold, or rented. Lowest performing 10% were asked to take action. Janet wondered whether this was a program that could be adopted in Concord.

Kate Hanley said she'd forwarded to Dave Wood some of the plans and ideas Rabego spoke about. Jerry said it's important for us to continue participating in group municipal events like MCAN to strengthen numbers, consolidate the effectiveness of environmental groups like CSEC.

Janet spoke of the CMLP EV program. Residents would buy their own charger. Installation is simple but not for multi-family dwellings. The cost of installing a Level 2 charger is approximately \$1500. Brian Foulds thinks this is a barrier. Brain says CMLP needs a sizeable rebate.

Smart meters are expected to be in place 2019. Smart meters will measure electricity used every 15 mins so CMLP will know who is charging and when.

CMLP wants a plan where EV owners send a photo of usage every 6 months. Kristin Dupre (from ENE) says people are pretty good about doing this. This is a good low-cost interim measure (before smart meters roll out).

Sam Lines said time-of-use/smart meters must be end goal.

CMLP aims to have a decision on smart meters and how to manage the period before they are installed by the time of the EV event (9/15/18).

Jerry says having a Level 2 charger (faster) is essential for anyone considering buying an EV like the Bolt, so CMLP must focus the rebate on this.

Sam stressed that process needs to be seamless and simple, so that figuring out how to do something -- whether installing an EV charging station or taking action on an energy audit – is easy and straightforward for people.

5. *Director of Sustainability's report:*

Kate Hanley was pleased to announce that the Town has received the Green Communities grant: \$116,000. The application was very specific, split between buildings and vehicles. Funds will be used for a municipal vehicle, the Nissan Leaf, and 2 charging stations (Thoreau Depot area and Beede Center), also for a hybrid conversion. Funds will also be used for building energy management systems, energy savings with technology upgrades. Also LED upgrades in 5 buildings.

All funds are now spoken for, Kate says. When you apply, you have to be really specific.

Sam Lines recently attended a BioDiesel seminar in Quincy. He recommends we explore switching the fuel supply for the many municipal diesel trucks in Town to bio-diesel. Sam says we should look at costs of making this switch. Kate says Green Communities would likely be interested in this. Good option when electricity is not an option.

Kate says Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program has kicked off; a grant was received a couple months ago. This program will work on climate resilience. A

quorum group of 40 or so community members will convene soon to do a resilience workshop, study vulnerabilities, brainstorm ideas and ultimately apply for grants.

Kate has been working on the sustainability page on the new Town website. This page will be the landing page for all topics, programs and Town organizations pertaining to energy, resilience, and sustainability. Cooler Concord will have representation on this page.

Janet said Pamela Cady of CMLP spoke of having an EV page on the CMLP website. Janet says better to focus on CMLP rebates on this page so that information is not duplicated on Town website and CMLP website.

6. *HeatSmart update:*

Brad sent Janet a report. HeatSmart has been extended to Aug 31. CMLP rebates will continue after the program ends, but installer prices could go up. Also, GSHP costs will go up.

Numbers to date:

Concord GSHP: 34 site visits, 24 proposals, 3 signed contracts.

Concord ASHP: 82 site visits, 82 proposals 17 signed contracts.

Over the next 2 weeks, a volunteer team will follow up with individual residents who have received proposals, to make sure questions are answered and hopefully encourage them towards signing contracts.

Brad is working on a HeatSmart video, a series of shorts with help from Bob Lawson. Some thought needs to be given to post-program planning. Concord will continue to promote heat pumps and heat pump water heaters.

7. *Electric Vehicle (EV) event, 9/15/18:*

Brian Foulds, Karen and Janet met to discuss what is needed: From CSEC, mainly marketing and promotion of event. Guest commentary in the Concord Journal (by an EV owner) would be good. Brad could do this perhaps. Kate says Lindsay Kafka has a Chevy Bolt. Or Dan Gainsborough (also on CMLP board) would also be good candidates. Best would be if one wrote the commentary, then others responded with letters to support the message.

Brian wants to send out a direct mail postcard with Town logo. He also plans a website where people can sign up ahead of time to drive a particular vehicle and get a time slot. Brian has the Walden Pond parking lot laid out. Ride & Drive will be by entrance closest to visitors' center, in order to keep it separate from people arriving at the event. Brian wants a flier. Karen has designed this, posters can be made from it. Budget and funding for promotional materials is not clear at this point. It may be possible to get funding from Plug-In America which provides funds for Ride and Drive events during National Drive Electric Week.

Kate says biggest cost is insurance. Kate said she would connect with Brian for an update.

Window for event promotion is reserved at the Concord Bookshop Sept 4-10. Julie will work on this, and run ideas by Brian. Posters and fliers will go up around town at this time too.

Kate suggests we have a table for HeatSmart at the EV event (environmentally-minded people present).

Sam says it would be good to have an electrician present to answer questions about installation. Also a level 2 charger rep, and CMLP should be present for rebate info.

NOTE: Ride & Drive is strictly dealers. People will bring their private vehicles but not for others to drive.

Additionally, Pedal Power will bring electric bikes. And the Town's electric school bus will be there.

Julie will write an email bulletin to the school community in early September. Also a Cooler Concord newsletter to share with MailChimp community. She will confirm this with Brian.

Sam says we should have a blueprint for promotion in general (Concord Journal article, fliers, posters, newsletters, Concord Bookshop window) and costs associated, so we are not re-inventing the wheel every time there is a new event. This is also in line with the new CSEC charge.

Kate says that, going forward, targeting commercial in Town might be a good focus for CSEC. Julie spoke about how she would like to see reduction of plastics use in small businesses/retail in Town.

8. *Sam Lines' liaison report on CMLP:*

CMLP is working on new billing account software to get bills out electronically. At the recent CMLP meeting, there was talk of a residential assistance rate to help lower-income customers handle the one cent increase that will result from CMLP's purchase of RECs. There will be a hearing soon to discuss the provision of special assistance rate.

Sam said there was a lot of discussion about tiered usage, in which users who use a lot of electricity are charged a higher rate. Roof-top solar has taken away some revenue for CMLP. CMLP wants to encourage people to use more electricity but, the more you electrify, the more you move into higher cost bracket (tier) which defeats the object. Changing to flat rates (except for Time of Use customers) could promote electrification. Reducing rates would encourage more use but that's not financially beneficial to CMLP, which ran a deficit last year. Their dilemma is how to promote efficiency, while remaining solvent. Time of use rates and higher fixed charges could help recover their fixed costs.

At 8:45pm, Sam motioned to adjourn, Jerry seconded.