



COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 16, 2022

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on August 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. CSEC members present were Sharon Jones, (Chair), Jerry Frenkil, Karen Gibson (Clerk), Janet Miller, and Doug Sharpe. Also present were Eric Reinhard, 9 Hayward Mill Circle, Concord, MA.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Sharon called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

2. Approval of June Minutes

Jerry moved to approve the June minutes. Janet seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Chair's Update

- a. No news yet on the new Sustainability Director. Jerry, Janet, and Doug offered to reach out to Kerry Lafleur to ask how CSEC could help with the Sustainability Director search and vetting.
- b. Schedule September meetings: Sharon polled the members for their availability in September. The Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 6 from 6-8pm.
- c. Discuss meeting by Zoom or in-person: Members discussed their preferences for zoom or in-person meetings. The September meeting will be via zoom.

4. Good News

A new regular agenda item featuring good news related to climate and energy.

- Sharon noted the passage of the Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 – signed into law today.
- Jerry noted the passage of the State climate bill and the no-fossil for future buildings provision. Janet pointed out, however, that the no fossil fuel requirement in the bill is contingent on having 10% of properties being low income. With the new census, Concord might fall below that percent.

5. Old Business

- Doug noted that the Concord Middle School was designed to be sustainability ready, but they haven't moved forward with the solar project, could CSEC be watchdogs for the process?
- Jerry reported that the School Superintendent's office has prepared an RFP for engineering proposals for a study of Alcott school's replacement of the boiler.

Doug asked if there is any oversight coming from the Town engineering group. Jerry offered to look into.

6. New Business: Brainstorming - moving to a sustainable CSEC

Sharon noted that there are a lot of groups that CSEC naturally collaborates with, and suggested CSEC members look at the groups that are working in energy and sustainability and at what they are doing. CSEC can then figure out if there is value CSEC can add. The goal is to move toward working with other groups to do events. Groups that CSEC has worked with in the past include:

- Ag Committee
- CAAB
- Concord Academy
- Concord Bikes
- Concord Clean Comfort / CMLP
- Concord Drives Electric
- ConcordCan
- Concord Family Network
- CCHS Green Team
- CPS Sustainability Committee
- First Parish
- League of Women Voters
- Library
- Mothers Out Front
- Natural Resources (in person conservation coffee – 7:30am first Tuesday of each month)
- Planning Committee
- Pollinator Health Advisory Committee
- Public Works
- Sunrise Movement

Janet suggested looking at what is in the IRA and the MA law (An Act Driving Clean Energy and Off-shore Wind) and determine what the subsidies are. Sharon suggested holding a forum to inform people about what is in the bills. Sharon suggested reaching out to the League of Women Voters. Jerry noted that one thing, the additional \$1500 MOR-EV rebate for low-income individuals, might go into effect sooner rather than later since the infrastructure is already in place. Jerry suggested that CSEC get a better idea of what's in the bill and which pieces affect Concord residents directly. Jerry offered to ask if someone from MCAN or Sierra Club could speak to CSEC about what's in the MA law. Marc Scribner will speak to the EV Working Group—Janet offered to share what she learns at that meeting. Sharon suggested getting space and putting Minuteman Media on notice that we may need their services for a forum in October. Sharon suggested a public outreach event, in-person, and virtual, on the MA Climate Bill and the Federal Inflation Reduction Act implications for Concord residents. Jerry offered to circulate a

summary of the State Climate Bill (An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind). CSEC will explore potential speakers to participate in a forum. Jerry will check with the interim director of MCAN.

CSEC Members discussed CSEC's relationship and role with the Town Sustainability Director's Office, and how CSEC could support that role, including offering to help with vetting candidates during the current search.

CSEC Members discussed the relationship between CSEC and CAAB. CSEC is an outreach committee whereas CAAB is a policy committee. There is no oversight of policy implementation. There was an effort by the Select Board last year to review Envision Concord and what progress had been made by the relevant Committees to achieve the sustainability plan's goals.

7. Public Comment

Eric Reinhard, 9 Hayward Mill Circle, Concord, MA, noted under the Good News section the article on the front page of the Globe that featured Millrun and Riverwalk. He also offered to lend a hand in future CSEC activities.

8. Adjourn

Janet moved to adjourn. Jerry seconded. The committee adjourned at 8:41pm.