

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 22, 2018

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on August 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. CSEC members present were Janet Miller (chair), Julie Kleyn (clerk), Sam Lines, Doug Sharpe, Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Jerry Frenkil and Karen Gibson. Also present were Kate Hanley, Alice Kaufman and Brian Foulds.

Welcome:

Janet welcomed new member Karen Gibson, who gave a quick bio of her recent work. Janet welcomed visitor, Brian Foulds.

Last meeting's minutes were reviewed. Jerry questioned "Lowest performing 10% (of residential energy audits in a Texas program) were obliged to have an audit." This was amended to "were obliged to address some of the issues."

Jerry motioned to approve the minutes. Brad seconded

Chair's Report:

Janet has been meeting with CMLP and discussing EV rebates. There are proposed rebates for charging and for installing chargers. This is not confirmed yet, but the goal is to have rebates ready for the 9/15 EV event.

Brian added that there is also discussion about an EV Ambassador program. Brad said CMLP is also thinking of lowering the rebate on heat pumps in line with MassCEC. Under discussion.

Director of Sustainability Report:

Kate Hanley said the Town is moving forward on the Green Communities grant. Specifically, Concord's Nissan Leaf is coming soon with the Town logo and will be at the EV event. The grant is also being applied to LED lighting and building management systems.

The Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP program) has kicked off. Meetings are being arranged with the core team in order to set up community workshops (by invitation). The workshop discussion will focus on the question: what are we most vulnerable to vis-a-vis climate change? Taking action with these workshops would allow the Town to apply for larger grants.

Kate shared with the group the work she has done on the sustainability page on the Town website. This is where people will register to test drive an EV (9/15 event) and Brian asked that the group register in order to confirm all is working correctly on the website.

Kate showed how there are links to home energy, business energy, travel etc. The page is live now and she encouraged the group to check it out and provide feedback. Alice asked how people would know about this and how we drive people to this site. Kate talked about the ways she's hoping to get the word out.

Janet said that CMLP is also working on creating a practical CMLP-specific webpage about the details of EV charging and rebates.

Electric Vehicle Event (9/15) Brian Foulds' report:

Brian talked about the need for promotion. This, along with assistance directing traffic and people on the day, is primarily what he is hoping CSEC can help with. It was agreed that assignments would be divided up as follows:

- MailChimp invitational email blast to Cooler Concord database (Julie, using Brian's template)
- School email newsletters/bulletins (Julie, using Brian's template)
- Distribute flyers (all, the list was divided up, flyers will be available at the Townhouse next week)
- Sandwich/poster boards (Brian will get posters printed and laminated, Julie will borrow sandwich boards from CMLP, and obtain permission from the Town)
- Concord Journal article (Brad to write)
- Sticker for Concord Journal (Brian)
- Bookshop window (Julie to design, Julie and Janet to set up 9/4, Karen to break down 9/10)

All materials should have the URL directing people to the Town's new sustainability page where they can register for the event and to test-drive an EV (drop-ins on the day OK too).

Brian shared the new info flyer (which still needs the URL). Requested our feedback. Brian plans on doing a final print run by Monday 8/27.

Brad said he plans to have a table at Concord's Agricultural Day (September 8) in Concord Center with EV info.

Brian shared his diagram of the EV event set-up. He will organize directional signage and have a traffic plan. He asked that volunteers arrive at 10am to put out signage.

Depending on the weather and parking availability, the electric school bus may be tasked with shuttling event-attendees from CCHS to the event at Walden.

Brian will rent tables and chairs unless someone offers to lend them.

Doug asked what EV owners will do. Brian said they can stand by their cars, answer questions, show their cars. Cars will be parked with plenty of space so that people can look around. Interaction will be mainly conversation-based.

People bringing their own cars need to sign up on the Town's sustainability page and then they will receive an email from Brian explaining what to do on the day. It is preferred that people stay with their cars to chat with visitors, they will not be allowed to leave (drive off) during event, too dangerous.

More volunteers are needed! Brad will recruit from the Carbon Free Concord list, the Swap Off/Drop Off volunteer list can also be tapped. Janet is working with Peter Nichol to recruit members of the CCHS Green Team. Brad says there should be CMLP board members to volunteer on 9/15 too. Brad will reach out to the Light Board chair about this.

Julie asked whether visitors needed to sign up in advance, Brian said no, you can just show up on day and register to test-drive.

Doug asked about CMLP rebates for chargers etc. CMLP is hoping to confirm this by 9/15 so that CMLP can talk to visitors about savings to be gained.

Janet asked how EV charging will be managed at the event. Brian said charging (at the Walden charging stations) should be reserved for older vehicles that will need more charge in order to get home! There needs to be someone managing this, keeping tabs on who's charging, getting cell numbers from people who are charging in case cars need to be switched out during the event.

Brian said the Reach group (providing and managing the ride & drive vehicles at the event) will promote on social media. Kate will get the message out through all Town social media sites. Everybody should re-post as much as possible.

HeatSmart Report (Brad Hubbard-Nelson):

The HeatSmart program is in the last 2 official weeks.

Brad is busy connecting with residents who are on the fence, hoping to nudge them to signing contracts. The Town's GSHP goal of 5 installed systems has just been met.

The ASHP goal was 65. Seventeen residents have now signed up with the HeatSmart official ASHP installer, New England Ductless. It is expected that a couple more will sign up soon. Brad explained that we will not know the total number of ASHP sign-ups until all rebates are processed because some residents chose to work with other installers.

The CMLP heat pump rebate may be reduced in November. Also, the rebate criteria may switch to the NEEP list (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partners) not the MassCEC criteria, which will make it easier for residents to qualify. Mass CEC was stringent, in that most ducted heat pump systems are not eligible.

Brad said almost every house visited got a proposal which is great, but he's guessing many residents went with other installers.

Future plans for HeatSmart: Brad said there is still some money in the budget which will be applied to making a well-scripted video after the program ends (Sept or Oct). Purpose: to keep promoting this technology. We also are owed some hours of consulting and we'll use this to transition the website to another purpose.

Brad is working on a plan for a new non-profit (a non-Town sponsored private project) with the working title Cooler Communities, a sort of merging of HeatSmart and Cooler Concord. Brad says it's important to keep working with Carlisle and Lincoln. The mission would be to help residents from multiple communities save energy and save money.

Liaison reports:

Sam Lines could not attend the most recent CMLP meeting. Based on the agenda, he said the most important topic was residential assistance for the new billing increase (the result of CMLP's purchase of RECs). CMLP has approved the 1c decrease for lower-income households.

Other:

Next meeting will be Sept 11, pending a quorum.

New members: Ellen Quackenbush has submitted a Green Card and is hoping to join CSEC soon. Alice Kaufman said that Sharon Jones also has a Green Card submitted.

Brad motioned to adjourn, Julie seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm