

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 27, 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 Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 7pm. CSEC members present were Doug Sharpe (chair), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Sharon Jones, Julie Kleyn (clerk), Karen Gibson, and Janet Miller. Also present were Kate Hanley, Terri Ackerman, and Brian Foulds.

1. Welcome visitors:

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

2. Approval of minutes from July 17, 2020

- Sharon had one minor correction on item.
- There were some Electric Vehicle edits to be made.
- Brad moved to approve as amended. Janet seconded. All approved.

3. Next meeting (September)

- Next meeting will be September 22nd, 7-9pm
- Next meeting, CSEC must formally vote on officers for next year (proposed Chair: Doug; proposed Clerk: Julie).
- There is a need to fill the last remaining seat on the committee. Janet mentioned that she had interviewed some prospects when she was chair and made recommendations to the Town Manager. Doug will liaise with Kate about reaching out to several people who have expressed interest and submitted Green Cards. Kate reminded the group that this was an appointment by the Town Manager ultimately.

4. Preparation for Town Meeting. Discussion about supporting Article 30. (Brian Fould's article on electric buses.)

- Terri thanked Brian for his presentation.
- The select board unanimously approved Article 30. Concord's financial committee voted 10 to 3 in support of it.
- Brian expressed concern that residents attending Town Meeting may not understand the Article and why the money is and may therefore vote it down.

- Janet said she had spoken with Brad about drafting a letter in support of Article 30 to share at Town Meeting. Janet shared her draft of the letter with CSEC via her Zoom screen.
- Julie proposed approving Janet's letter, Brad seconded, all approved. Janet will send the letter to Doug.

5. Update on HeatSmart Alliance (Brad)

- Group is quite active, with subgroups meeting regularly
- Decision to enter a Fiscal Sponsorship arrangement with MassEnergize
- For this reason, BHN was replaced as treasurer of the HeatSmart Alliance by another member
- Coaching working group is active - developing materials and processes, ideally to have coaches in many communities with good success and minimal liability

6. MassEnergize 501 (C)3 update (Brad)

- ME sponsoring Cooler Communities (based on the Cooler Concord mel from CSEC) as a collaborative project together with Ener-G-Save (Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation) and UMass Clean Energy Extension. Combined group has larger reach (Western MA) and financial resources, and plans to be doing more school-based sustainability fairs in 2021, and possibly a virtual fair this fall.
- A lot accomplished this summer with help from 3 MassCEC interns: website improvements, playbooks and carbon calculator validation. Carbon calculator is a new web tool based on the Cooler Concord carbon points estimator.
- Cooler Concord group consists of Brad, Janet, Karen, Gilda Gussin, Susan Frey, met today to discuss next steps. Most action content has been updated to be correct for Concord
- Currently the website has a problem due probably to a malicious attack on the Amazon Web Services account. As a result, the site isn't showing photographs at the moment, so it looks pretty odd: CoolerConcord.org
- Met with Phil Posner, Linda Nieman and Gilda Gussin to discuss a potential campaign being considered: **Bicycling to School** in teams of multiple parents and children. The purpose is primarily to avoid full school buses, and to try to avoid more individual driving of students. Meeting this evening to discuss the plans, will talk with Gilda about it.
- Planning a short newsletter for September to announce the updated website and encourage people to check it out, and biking to school campaign, and perhaps climate action plan.

7. Update on EV programs (Janet)

- No Ride & Drive events this fall.
- Instead virtual dealership "round tables"/ open discussion online forums are planned.

- Tuesday October 20 5:30-6:30pm: live Q&A with EV specialists. Repeat event on 24th.
- Local dealerships, including a rep from Tesla.
- CMLP is organizing this.
- Mark Scribner (ENE) carried out an EV survey. Janet shared details of this via her Zoom screen.

8. Update on Durham NH's energy considerations checklist (Janet)

- Durham NH has a checklist of considerations regarding building efficiency. See: https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_energy/energy-considerations-checklist
- Kate spent a few minutes outlining this.
- Also noted: The Attorney General banned the Brookline Town Meeting article prohibiting fossil fuels. But the Rocky Mountain Institute has committed to helping communities find legal pathways to take action and continue to promote energy-efficient buildings.

9&10. Update on Concord Sustainability's new Sustainable Concord Dashboard and discussion of CSEC's Role in the Town's Climate Action & Resiliency Plan (Kate)

- Kate asked the group to look at the priority actions in the plan on the Town of Concord's website.
- The Climate Action Plan's other function is to tell a story about the components of sustainability in Concord. Residents can interact with data points, blogs too. Sharing content. A powerful way to engage with people.
- Very dynamic platform (KLA is the consultant).

11. Update on webinar/video development for the *Your Sustainable Home Now* project.

- Discussion about the value of webinars. They could be a lot of work for little return.
- Brad likes the idea of connecting with a specific coach after the video instead of a webinar.
- Kate said focus on videos first.
- Janet suggested peer editing video scripts in groups of 2 or 3. Brad said groups of 2 plus an optional family member as a sounding board.
- Julie will assign teams of 2 to work on draft video scripts for next meeting.
- With the help of others for voice-overs, Julie shared her 6-minute video script as a working example.

11. Adjourn

Janet motioned to adjourn at 9pm and Brad seconded. All were in favor.

