

## **COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY COMMITTEE**

### *Final Meeting Minutes*

*Tuesday, September 17, 2019*

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee was held on September 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. CSEC members present were Doug Sharpe (Chair), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Janet Miller, Karen Gibson, Sharon Jones, and Bob Shatten.

**1. Welcome visitors:**

Doug welcomed visitors, Brian Foulds and Eric Reinhardt.

**2. Approval of minutes:**

The CSEC August 22 minutes were reviewed and amended. Janet Miller motioned to approve the minutes. Brad seconded. The minutes were approved as amended.

**3. Next meetings:**

The next CSEC meeting will be held on October 15, 2019.

**4. Updates and Announcements:**

Brian encouraged committee members to come to the Climate Action Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday at 7 pm in the Select Board Room at Town Hall. The meeting will be the kickoff meeting with Kim Lundgren Associates (**KLA**)—the Town has contracted with KLA to do the Climate Action Plan. CAAB has established goals, and will take a leadership role in advising the plan development, and at the meeting will establish an action list for the next 10 years to reduce emissions and increase resiliency with workshops around town for residents.

**5. Follow-up Report from Heat Pump Working Group**

Brad provided an update from the Heat Pump Working Group. He described their analysis of HeatSmart impact and ideas for recommendations for further electrification, including ideas on a proposal for electrification pilot study. The goals will be to understand technical options, costs, and barriers to electrify housing stock as a whole, and provide turn-key solution to lower barriers to adoption. Brad updated the committee on the report he sent to Senator Mike Barrett. Sen. Barrett had asked how you would do a pilot study to know how to electrify housing stocks as a whole given that different towns have different fuel mixes and ownership mixes? The goals in the report are based on ideas that have been tried in Colorado in a municipal utility district. Ft Collins put together a study with a turnkey approach, to go into homes and

evaluate what could be done to electrify and weatherize the home. To reach the Global Warming Solutions Act and Article 51 goals, we need to eventually reach all the homes, but this will require audits, reviews, visits from multiple contractors, comparison, etc. This is a big barrier to getting something done. The aim is to get into enough homes to be statistically significant. The expense for a deep energy audit is several hundred dollars to \$1,000. A goal would be to try for 360 houses in town in order to get an idea of what is needed in different types of houses and varying costs. Are there any grants the town could apply for? Brad will follow up with Senator Barrett soon.

#### **6. Discussion about Sustainability and the Concord Library Project**

Last spring, the town voted on funds from Community Preservation Act to expand the library by connecting to the Heywood-Benjamin house (18<sup>th</sup> century) next door that they've bought. Comments at the Town meeting focused on sustainability issues of the project. The modeled energy consumption report (from 2018) appeared quite high. The town is responsible for paying utilities, and has GHG reduction goals to meet. Brad wrote to the Historic Districts Commission, expressing concern about the sustainability of project and energy use, and the addition of natural gas boiler. The current energy model was revised and now show better efficiency than before. Brad will meet with the developers to talk about what was modeled, insulation, etc. He wants to understand why the energy cost is what it is, and provide constructive input to the project.

#### **7. Further Updates on the Relationship between MassEnergize and CSEC**

Brad gave an update on the MassEnergize non-profit he is involved with. Their Community Web Portal is about 90% finished, though work remains after interns have gone back to school. The functionality of the website is looking good, and now content needs to be loaded. The group want to demonstrate success in 3-4 communities, and then try to get a grant to add 10 communities. They have hired a COOP student from Wentworth to work on the Cooler Communities event calculator. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) did a prototype last year, and the student will finish by mid-November. The purpose is educational, to gather data for the host organization in order to follow up with participants, and an onboarding tool for community portal.

The suggestion was made that a CRM(Customer resource management) is needed.

#### **8. Further Discussion about CSEC's 2019/2020 Focus, Goals & Objectives**

At the August meeting, committee members identified a number of possible areas to focus on, including Net zero building standards, case studies of recently retrofitted buildings, energy efficiency in historic districts, commercial buildings in town, heat pump water heaters, battery storage and

solar (fall solar project that would go into spring), duct sealing/weatherization step, and supporting the Mass Energy Solarize program. One idea is to take existing projects and put a book of resources together. For example, in retrofitting historic building, what did it take? The Committee discussed what a “Concord House of the Future” would look like with solar, heat pumps, geothermal, EVs, weatherization (insulation and windows), ERV/HRV - ventilation, water/wastewater, rainwater/landscaping, septic, trash/compost/recycling, Energy-Star appliances, battery storage/power wall, etc. One idea was to develop a simple, 6-page guide with pictures for an electrified home-- retrofitting existing home, reusing rainwater collecting, planting native plants, separating trash, composting, recycling, using town’s trash collectors, etc. Concord utility will have smart meters that give information about consumption and give residents a way to monitor and reduce their own consumption. CSEC can help educate residents on energy efficiency and sustainability. For example, a simple guide to hand out, with committee members answering questions, at events. CSEC members could talk to residents and find out what their questions are, and put together information that is relevant to them. “Electrify Concord” - promote solar and storage; more renewables; resiliency; secure fuel source; distributed storage. Over the next few months the Committee should focus on information that is achievable right now.

CSEC should be a resource for the community. Janet Miller and Peter Nichols wrote an article for the Concord Journal – Living In an Energy Efficient Home. Suggested ways to outreach to the community include: writing articles for the Concord Journal, tabling, brochures, websites, etc. – providing the resources. One member suggested a blog or a column – answering questions from the community.

Another suggestion for CSEC activities was case studies. One member suggested that CSEC make a list of case studies, and decide who wants to work where. Sharon and Karen volunteered to work on an energy retrofit case study.

## **9. Other business**

Janet gave a brief update on electric vehicle related work. Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP) had two workshops on multi-development units. There will be a pilot program. The deadline for applying is Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **10. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **11. Adjournment**

Sharon moved to adjourn. Janet and Brad seconded. The Committee adjourned at 9:10pm