



Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2021

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting – Hosted on Zoom

Members present: Coralie Cooper (as Chair), Jim DiTullio, Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky, Marc Breslow, Shelly Dein, Adam Chapdelaine

Members joined after minutes approved: Dan Amstutz, Nellie Aikenhead

Also attending: Brucie Moulton, Tom Ehbrecht, Alex Eberle, Amos Meeks, Anne Goodwin, Eugene Benson, Parke Wilde, Sandra Frawley, Susan Keane

Members not present: David Levy, Diane Mahon

Video Meeting Procedures

Ms. Cooper summarized a set of prepared remarks explaining the procedures that the Committee would follow to hold a virtual meeting. Governor Baker signed an Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic allowing virtual meetings, which suspended the usual Open Meeting Law requirement that a quorum of committee members be physically present in order to hold an official committee meeting.

Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed meeting minutes from the September 24, 2021 Meeting. Ms. Cooper asked for comments. Ms. Dein offered a correction changing 'complement' to 'compliment'. Mr. DiTullio asked to change 'during and in' to 'during or in'. Ms. Dein motioned to approve the minutes with those two amendments; Ryan Katofsky seconded. Pasi Miettinen abstained. The Committee approved the September 24, 2021 meeting minutes as amended.

Agenda Item 1: Attorney General Approval of Town Meeting Warrant Article 38

Ms. Cooper noted that the AG had approved the zoning bylaw that now allows the replacement of home foundations on nonconforming lots if the resulting structure is highly energy efficient. She suggested we think about publicizing this, including writing an article and posting it on CEFC website. Mr. DiTullio asked when the bylaw would become effective, and Mr. Chapdelaine explained that the bylaw becomes effective approximately one week after the Town publicly posts the announcement. Mr. DeTullio also recommended submitting an article to the Advocate. Ms. Aikenhead suggested outreach to the real estate and RE development community, with direct mailers, or emails, or phone calls. Mr. Miettinen recommended telling the Building Department and posting something there, since it affects ~ 50% of Arlington properties. Ms. Cooper stated that Ms. Mahon suggested in a previous meeting that the CEFC look into

whether or not a flyer could be made available at town departments. Mr. Miettinen suggested that if someone replaces their foundation soon as a result of this new bylaw, that we publicize it. Mr. Katofsky suggested that an ad hoc marketing and communications committee be established for this and other future accomplishments, which Pasi agreed with. Ms. Cooper suggested this should be on the NZAP Tracking Sheet.

Agenda Item 2: Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) Tracking Sheet

Ms. Cooper opened the discussion of the NZAP Tracking Sheet by reviewing the purpose of the sheet and some example items on the Tracking Sheet. The CEFC agreed that the sheet could be a useful tool to track follow-up items. Mr. Katofsky noted that even if a task is completed, we need to incorporate implementation as it progresses. Ms. Cooper asked for volunteers to maintain the tracking sheet.

Agenda Item 3: Updates from CEFC workgroups:

- A. Net Zero Stretch Code – Mr. Meeks offered that the issuance of the new stretch energy code has been delayed which is potentially troubling. Mr. Meeks suggested that outreach to activists is also recommended so that organizations are ready to comment on a proposal when it is issued. Mr. Meeks indicated that although people in the industry know this is expected, grassroots activists should be mobilized. Mr. Chapdelaine indicated that he has written to all municipalities in the past week and has collected 20 signatories already. Mr. Miettinen thanked Mr. Chapdelaine for reaching out to other municipal leaders.
- B. Arlington Clean Energy Supply – Mr. Katofsky agreed to speak with Patrick Roche of Good Energy, Arlington’s electricity aggregator. Mr. Katofsky had no update.
- C. Electrify Arlington – Ms. Cooper indicated the subcommittee had a 2-hour retreat where they discussed goals and different models for a website. As follow-up, she will talk to the Arlington Public Information Officer, Joan Roman, about establishing a Town of Arlington Electrify Arlington website. The workgroup talked to Cambridge and other communities and discussed different models on how to pilot heat pumps, including using consultants and volunteers. The workgroup also discussed establishing a pilot program for heat pumps. Mothers Out Front could assist in this effort. This group expects to meet every few weeks.
- D. Potential New Warrant Article – Ms. Cooper mentioned that the town will move forward on updating language that municipal buildings should be LEED Silver or better. Mr. Chapdelaine indicated it was a bylaw, and that Allen Reedy of the Permanent Town Building Committee and Planning Director Jenny Raitt were both interested in establishing a higher standard. Mr. Miettinen indicated that the LEED rating system doesn’t always prioritize energy efficiency. Mr. Chapdelaine said he thinks there is leeway to choose another rating system. Mr. Katofsky said his experience on the AHS project may be helpful, and he is happy to join the discussion. The CEFC agreed to establish a small working group.
- E. Fossil Fuel Prohibition – Mr. Chapdelaine indicated there was no movement to report. He thinks this hasn’t moved out of committee yet.
- F. Ms. Cooper indicated that there are several additional ideas for warrant articles. The CEFC needs to identify a lead contact for this. Mr. Katofsky indicated that

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although NZB3 is listed as done, we still need to communicate this. Ms. Cooper asked the committee to identify leads for warrant article process and for communications. She recommended that we review the Tracker Sheet every few meetings.

Connect Arlington Plan – Mr. Amstutz offered to make presentation to the CEFC committee. As part of Connect Arlington implementation, DPCD has started a Bikeway Planning Project to understand how to make the Bikeway safer and more useful to more people. A consultant has been hired and a public survey has been released with responses due by early November. Ms. Dein said she feels that Connect Arlington presentation would be great; Mr. Chapdelaine concurred.

Gas Leaks Task Force – Mr. Chapdelaine wants to find a way to coordinate with CEFC. Ms. Cooper was invited to meet with the GLTF.

Other items –

Mr. Katofsky indicated that next week both he and Ken Pruitt are co-leading an Arlington Continuing Education (ACE) class on town's NZAP.

Mr. Katofsky added that the Arlington HS rebuild project now has a page on sustainability.

Mr. Katofsky added that the Town is in process of getting 2 electric school buses. Locating the electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) has been challenging, but it now seems like the EVSE will be in the lower Ottoson lot.

Ms. Cooper mentioned that Tom Ehbrecht is also leading an ACE class on How to Lower Emissions.

In considering a website for Arlington, Ms. Cooper mentioned developing a bare bones website, but referencing other websites including MA Clean Energy Center's Clean Energy Lives Here, and Green Energy Consumer's Alliance's Drive Green Program. She also mentioned Mass Energize which for \$3,500 to set up and \$1,500 annually, they could host a site that we would populate. Their model includes a scorecard which Newton and others have used. The workgroup will continue to talk to other towns to see how they have set up their websites.

Mr. Katofsky mentioned that Gene Benson suggested we sponsor at least one zoning article. Ms. Cooper mentioned that Gene's idea was to consider the NZAP in the environmental design review process or the special permit process. Mr. Miettinen supported Mr. Benson's suggestion.

Anne Goodwin mentioned that she represents First Parish Church, which is hoping to find a way to support the CEFC committee's work. There are a number of ways they could support the CEFC, for example by participating in a pilot project.

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Next Meeting Date – Ms. Cooper recommended that we change the meeting date currently scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving. Following a discussion about whether to have one or two meetings before the end of the year, the CEFC recommended that the next meeting be set for December 3, and if another meeting is desirable to advance a warrant article, that we would have time to meet again.

Mr. Katofsky made a motion to adjourn, which Ms. Dein seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Meeting ended at 9:20 am.

Submitted by Shelly Dein