



Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2022

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Virtually Conducted – Hosted on Zoom

Members present: Coralie Cooper (as Chair), Nellie Aikenhead, Dave Levy, Marc Breslow (arrived late), Dan Amstutz (arrived late), Adam Chapdelaine, James DiTullio, Ryan Katofsky, Pasi Miettinen, Shelly Dein, David Morgan

Also attending: Pat Hanlon, Sandra Frawley, Susan Keane

Members not present: Diane Mahon

Ms. Cooper convened the meeting at 8:18 am. Ms. Cooper read a brief statement noting the legislation that permits virtual meetings. Ms. Cooper then took a roll call for those in person and on the phone.

1. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the December 3, 2021 meeting. Mr. Morgan noted he was in attendance. Ms. Cooper asked for any other changes. Mr. Chapdelaine motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Katofsky seconded the motion. The Committee approved the December 3rd meeting minutes.

Ms. Cooper first updated the Committee that the Sustainability Manager who will replace Ken Pruitt, will start working for the Town at the end of the month and will join the Committee thereafter. Mr. Chapdelaine said her name is Talia Fox and she will bring a wealth of experience to the Town.

2. CEFC workgroup update with a focus on the Net Zero Stretch Code.

Mr. Hanlon, a town resident, presented an update for the Net Zero Stretch Code workgroup of the CEFC. Mr. Hanlon noted the legislation became effective at the end of June but the Department has not released the draft yet. He said advocates think the delay will result in a watering down of the proposal. The statutory limit is next December for the proposal. The sense is the administration will finalize before the end of the year.

the home rule petition has been discharged to the Telecommunications and Energy Committee which is chaired by Senator Barrett. The Committee has scheduled a hearing for Wednesday the 19th on the various home rule petitions. Senator Eldridge has crafted a bill to combine the home rule petitions. Mr. Chapdelaine will testify on behalf of the Town but it is important to have more people making statements to show broad support. Mr. Hanlon will send information to the CEFC on how to sign up to testify.

Resolution on a Net Zero Stretch Code:

Mr. Hanlon presented a draft of a warrant article and a draft resolution supporting a net zero stretch code with a revision date of January 2022. He stated the warrant article asks Town Meeting to approve a resolution asking for a true net zero stretch code. The elements of a true net zero stretch code are similar to those listed in the municipality letter that Mr. Chapdelaine spearheaded with 29 municipalities. The question before the CEFC stated Mr. Hanlon is if the CEFC is interested in asking if the resolution be placed on the warrant. The language in the resolution comes from a subcommittee that Mr. Hanlon has been working with. Ms. Cooper stated this meeting may be the first time the CEFC members are seeing the resolution language and proposed the Committee discuss the substance of the resolution and then decide whether to approve the resolution today or before the end of January.

Ms. Dein stated this is the first time she has seen the language “true” net zero stretch code as opposed to the term “net zero stretch code” and asked if we have a definition of true net zero stretch code. Mr. Hanlon said “true” in the resolution is defined as an energy efficient, all-electric building, with low embodied carbon emissions, and uses renewable sources to generate at least as much energy as is used each year. Mr. Hanlon stated there is a sense that DOER will not propose a true net zero stretch code and instead will focus on efficiency and allow for on-site burning of fossil fuels. Mr. Miettinen stated he supports the resolution and the CEFC’s and the Town’s previous actions are consistent with this resolution. He is not concerned with the word “true.” David Morgan stated he agrees with Mr. Miettinen and asked if there a further definition expressed somewhere else that discusses emissions associated with construction and land use change. Mr. Hanlon said the resolution states that whole building lifecycle emissions assessment needs to be undertaken as part of the code. He doesn’t think land use will be reflected in the stretch code. Land use might be included in the assessment. Mr. Morgan asked if flooding could be accounted for in the land use change assessment. Mr. Katofsky said he supports the intent of the resolution but stated the embodied carbon language could make it so complicated and costly that it could erect unintended barriers. He asked if the code intended to be a net zero energy or net zero emissions code? He added that the CEFC needs to think through what the implications of the language might be in a final resolution.

Mr. Katofsky asked what the CEFC role is in supporting this resolution. Mr. Hanlon stated the CEFC role would request the Select Board inserts this on the town warrant and then at Town Meeting, there would be a more complete resolution that would be considered. The CEFC role would be similar to its role in the clean heat by-law. Mr.

Katofsky said he is supportive of adopting some sort of resolution even with the language as is, but it could create very challenging language for the Town to adopt.

Mr. Chapdelaine suggested the CEFC insert a period after the fourth line which would allow the warrant to go ahead to Town Meeting and then the CEFC could work on the language between now and Town Meeting. He added that its a substantial statement for Town Meeting to endorse the language, so there is value for the CEFC to support the language.

Mr. Miettinen said he supports Mr. Chapdelaine's suggestions and supports the CEFC voting on the four sentences for the warrant article. Ms. Dein also supported the approach. She added that items A, B, C, and G are not problematic and the language in between are more challenging and probably will be challenging for Town Meeting. Mr. Hanlon clarified that by the time we get to Town Meeting we will have a resolution with language the CEFC agrees on. Agreement on the language will take place in discussions between now and Town Meeting. Ms. Cooper took a sense of the CEFC on whether to vote on the resolution. Ms. Dein moved to approve the warrant article language as amended assuming the CEFC will look at the resolution language in more detail and suggest edits. Mr. Katofsky seconded the motion. The CEFC then voted unanimously to approve the warrant article language as amended except for Diane Mahon who was not present at the meeting.

3. Municipal Building Warrant Article

Ms. Cooper introduced the next agenda item and noted that David Levy has volunteered to be the point person for the CEFC on this warrant article. The draft warrant article language that would update and replace Title I Article 16, Section 4 ("LEED") with language saying municipal buildings, consistent with the NZAP will be zero GHG emitting. Mr. Chapdelaine suggested the CEFC should vote contingent upon Doug Heim looking at the language and making any edits he thinks are necessary. David Morgan asked if the first sentence extends to supply of net zero energy to those buildings. Ryan Katofsky said yes, it does extend to energy supply to buildings. Mr. Katofsky suggested the language could be clearer if it said "energy supply," but since it says "consistent with NZAP" it is probably fine. Dan Amstutz stated he wanted to understand how major renovation would be defined and to make sure it is consistent with how the Town defines this. He also wanted to know who at the Town would evaluate any engineering analyses demonstrating a waiver is needed. These things will need to be worked out.

Ms. Cooper added the Permanent Building Committee may be the body to conduct reviews, but it is not settled yet. Mr. Chapdelaine stated there is an existing bylaw saying new and major renovated municipal buildings need to be built to LEED standards. There is a sentence in the current bylaw saying "to the extent practical" and in practice the permanent Town Building Committee has done review. The process has been somewhat vague about which town body makes the decision and ideally, the new language would clarify this. Mr. Hanlon mentioned it isn't clear whether or not this draft language would replace the existing bylaw. Mr. Chapdelaine suggested the new draft

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language replace or update the current bylaw but added Doug Heim should look at the language and make suggestions on how to word it. Ms. Cooper and Mr. Chapdelaine agreed to work with Town Counsel after the meeting to review the proposed language and recirculate to the Committee.

Mr. Katofsky pointed out the new high school would satisfy the language in the draft warrant article.

David Levy asked about next steps for the bylaw and Mr. Chapdelaine said if a committee of the town or a board of the town asks for a warrant article to be included then it will be submitted at the request of the CEFC.

Ryan Katofsky motioned to approve the language and Dave Levy seconded the motion. The CEFC then voted unanimously to approve the language (with the exception of Diane Mahon and Jim DiTullio who were not present during the vote).

The Committee then motioned and unanimously voted to adjourn the Meeting at 9:29am who were not present for this vote.

Submitted by Dave Levy.