



## Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2022  
8:15 – 9:30 a.m.  
Virtually Conducted

Members present: Coralie Cooper (as Chair), Nellie Aikenhead, Marc Breslow, Adam Chapdelaine, James DiTullio, Talia Fox, Eric Helmuth, Ryan Katofsky, Pasi Miettinen (arrived late), Shelly Dein, David Morgan.

Also attending: Eugene Benson, Patrick Hanlon, Brucie Moulton, Parke Wild

Members not present: Dan Amstutz, Dave Levy

Ms. Cooper convened the meeting at 8:15 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.

Ms. Cooper welcomed Talia Fox, Arlington's new Sustainability Manager to the CEFC.

### **1. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the January 14, 2022 meeting. Ms. Cooper asked for any corrections, additions, or changes to the draft minutes. There were none. The Committee approved the January 14th meeting minutes.

### **2. Update on NZAP Implementation from Working Group Chairs**

Municipal building warrant article: Between the January and February meetings, the CEFC continued to work on the 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. Levy and Ms. Cooper worked with Doug Heim to craft warrant article language, and this language was added to the warrant prior to the January 28th deadline. Adam Chapdelaine, Dave Levy, Jim Feeney (Deputy Town Manager and Acting Facilities Director), Talia Fox, and Brett Lambert (Permanent Town Buildings Committee) met to discuss this warrant article. This group arrived at the question of whether to wait a year to develop the bylaw language. The primary reasons for waiting are 1) the Town is undertaking an electrification study of several school buildings, 2) there are no Town building projects planned in the next year that would be affected by this potential bylaw change, and 3) the State's Stretch Code update is still in draft form, which would impact what Arlington does here. Further, there are a few items to be worked on prior to establishing draft

- language for the bylaw: identifying which Town committee or board will review technical analyses, scope of applicability, and defining net zero. Adam would go to the Select Board and ask for a no action vote on the actual bylaw change, but with strong supporting language for a bylaw the following year. The Committee was comfortable with a small subgroup meeting to determine the path forward.
- B. Electrify Arlington – the Electrify Arlington workgroup will begin meeting again this month. The group has not met in a few months while Arlington brought the new Sustainability Manager on board. When the group last met, it discussed options for an Electrify Arlington website, and the group will pick up with this topic when it meets.
  - C. Electric school buses – the Town has purchased two electric school buses and is in the process of purchasing charging stations. The Town will go out to bid and secure chargers in coming months. Buses will arrive in late June/July. Plan is to have a public event in the fall. Town only purchased two buses because of funding and siting limitations for charging infrastructure.
  - D. Solar warrant article – Shelly Dein is the CEFC lead on a warrant article that was introduced to the Arlington Redevelopment Board by Jenny Raitt at the ARB’s last meeting. The warrant article is modeled after the Watertown requirement for solar to be installed on commercial buildings. The ARB will meet again on March 7th to discuss specific language and Ms. Dein and Gene Benson will be available to answer questions. Ms. Fox will be conducting research in preparation for the meeting.
  - E. ACE program – the Town is approaching the end of its contract and will be renewing this spring. The default level for the program’s additional renewable electricity is 11%, and Ms. Fox, Mr. Chapdelaine, and Mr. Katofsky have been in conversation with the Town’s consultant, Good Energy, regarding what the new default rate should be. ACE subgroup hopes to increase the rate, particularly because the Town’s Net Zero Action Plan has a goal of reaching 100% renewables in default supply by 2030. Contracts have typically been in the 2–3-year range, so there will be two more options to increase the default rate. The current market is volatile. Next step is approaching the Select Board because what the Town decides impacts ratepayers. Ms. Dein raised a question regarding whether the Town would need to have its program reviewed by the Department of Public Utilities if changing to an opt-down approach (by increasing the default significantly). Mr. Miettinen encouraged all CEFC members to opt up to 100% clean energy and asked if residents could help drive down costs by reducing demand. The Committee also took public comment from Parke Wilde, who encouraged the Town to push for as high a default rate as possible; and Brucie Moulton, who asked if there were programs such as the “Shave the Peak” program from the Green Energy Consumers Alliance that helps to flatten the curve. Mr. Chapdelaine clarified that there is not a way to adopt a demand management program that would impact the upcoming contract renewal, but there could potentially be such an effort moving forward.
  - F. Net zero stretch code. The Telecommunications and Energy Committee which is chaired by Senator Barrett held a hearing on January 19th on the various home rule petitions. Mr. Chapdelaine, Ms. Cooper, and Mr. Hanlon testified on behalf of the Town. The Committee expressed strong support for the Towns’ efforts. The CEFC submitted the warrant asking the Town to pass a resolution supporting a

strong net zero stretch code. The MA Department of Energy Resources will hold three hearings on the proposed update to the stretch code and the proposed opt-in net zero stretch code.

### **3. Net Zero Stretch Code Resolution**

- A. Greenhouse gas emissions percentage: Mr. Hanlon provided language to the CEFC on the percent of GHG emissions from buildings in Arlington. Mr. Katofsky raised a concern about whether scope 2 emissions (electricity) are included in the percentage, which would make for an uneven comparison. Mr. Hanlon suggested removing the sentence about Arlington's emissions if this issue can't be resolved.
- B. Embodied carbon language: Mr. Hanlon provided embodied carbon language for consideration by the Committee. The language takes a broader approach to action on this topic. This language was raised in response to some concerns from Committee members on the language being too prescriptive when there is great variability regarding how to calculate embodied carbon. Committee expressed comfort with the new language. The Select Board will likely hear this item on its March 7th agenda, and Ms. Fox will confirm. Mr. Hanlon will prepare to appear before the Select Board on the 7<sup>th</sup> and encouraged other Committee members to attend.

The Committee confirmed the next meeting on March 25 at 8:15am. The Committee then motioned and unanimously voted to adjourn the Meeting at 9:47am.

Submitted by Coralie Cooper.