



## Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes

*Draft – for approval at the 03-24-2023 meeting*

February 24, 2023

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid In-person / Remote Meeting

Members Present:

- In Person: David Morgan and Talia Fox
- Remote: Coralie Cooper, Eric Helmuth, James DiTullio, Marc Breslow, Nellie Aikenhead, Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky (as Chair), Shelly Dein

Members Absent: Jim Feeney, Amos Meeks

Also attending: Bruce Moulton, Gene Benson, Jacob Glickel, Patrick Hanlon

R. Katofsky convened the meeting at 8:15 am. R. Katofsky read a brief statement noting the legislation that permits virtual meetings.

### **1. Reminders re: Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Meeting Pilot**

- If there is a technical failure, we will try to relaunch the meeting three times
- If we are unable to relaunch and there are more than 20 minutes left in the meeting, the CEFC will reconvene the following Friday
- If there are fewer than 20 minutes left, the CEFC will carry the remaining agenda items forward to next meeting
- Please fill out the hybrid meeting survey; E. Helmuth noted – very useful to Committee, whether positive or negative

### **2. Review and Approve 1/20/2023 Meeting Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the January 20, 2023, meeting. D. Morgan noted that might need a time stamp when people join meeting late – he came in about ½ hour before meeting ended. One minor edit made. D. Morgan moved to approve and S. Dein seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the January 20th meeting minutes with a show of hands; P. Miettinen abstained because he was not present at the meeting.

### **3. Sustainability Updates**

Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Project:

- T. Fox: Town submitted a comment letter on Fossil Free Demo Program submitted to DOER; came from Town Manager, not the CEFC
- R. Katofsky: noted that the comments were largely procedural in nature
- T. Fox agreed, especially around issues of timing

- P. Hanlon: major items of concern for other towns include how major renovations are defined, concerns around gas cooking, and the lack of a procedure for waivers/exceptions to the bylaw. Town bylaws allow some exceptions but there is no equivalent safety valve in the State's model pilot bylaw. DOER provided feedback on these concerns, and some towns are bringing revisions to their bylaws to Town Meeting in the spring and are concerned about the lack of guidance.
- T. Fox: Arlington has decided not to bring this to vote in the spring, so we have time to see how things shake out.

#### Electrify Arlington

- T. Fox: heat pump coaching going well, 70 inquiries, moving through the list; continuing to attend events – Heights Festival in June, EcoFest activities, Heat Pump 101 class @ ACE on March 7; also looking into small grants.
- P. Miettinen: mentioned coming into A/C season; April/May key A/C replacement time; great time to encourage replacement of condensers with heat pumps

#### Electrification and Air Quality Master Plan:

- T. Fox: six school study to understand how we can retrofit existing fossil fuel systems with electric alternatives; plan is finished, has been presented to select representatives from a few committees; it will be a public document; goal is to get to Net Zero in school buildings
- R. Katofsky: emphasized that the report is a jumping off point, provides a lot of info and makes it clear things will take a while; getting to point where some schools are coming up to equipment replacement time; need to figure out how it works and where funds will come from
- C. Cooper: ask if schools are representative of “institutional buildings” in general or is there no generalizing?
- R. Katofsky: maybe can't generalize, schools have more land and commercial building stock probably more varied than schools

#### Gas Leaks

- D. Morgan: Update from gas leaks task force – the resolution approved by the CEFC will be brought to Selectboard in March; would still like to get funding for testing in-home appliances for gas leaks

#### **4. Opt-In Specialized Energy Stretch Code Campaign Needs & Next Steps**

- P. Hanlon: had the developers forum 2/15; well attended, 30 contractors/builders
  - General sense was business-like; people just wanted to know what they need to do.
  - T. Fox gave great overview; Mike Ciampa translated it into code; John Barrows did presentation on a low HERS score in new (John Carney) building on Palmer St and outlined the changes that were made from a similar building built the previous year; Nellie presented available subsidies and tax credits
  - March 1 forum next major step; outstanding panel; major presenter is Ellen Watts, who was instrumental in developing Stretch Code and who has been doing high performance buildings as a career; also on panel are Aaron Gunderson, Executive Director of Passive House Massachusetts; Jeff Geisinger from Utile, who is terrific at understanding the market; Neal

Mongold a member of Affordable Housing Task Force, and a Board Member Housing Corporation of Arlington

- Ian Finlayson will answer questions; T. Fox will be M.C.
- Should be a really good program; please encourage TM members to attend, they have been informed that it will be recorded; can work with ACMi to provide parts for future precinct meetings; need Precinct Captains in 9, 13, and 18
- Next thing after the panel discussion is a presentation to Select Board, not sure exactly when; important for CEFC to show up for that; helpful to make remarks and also to send letters, which don't take up as much time as verbal comments at a public meeting
- Also working on broader outreach including to affordable housing communities to inform and generate support
- Get in touch w P. Hanlon, B. Moulton, or Anne Wright if interested in assisting.

## 5. CEFC Priorities and Working Groups

- R. Katofsky:
  - Time to revisit our prioritization list; last worked on this a couple of years ago; have completed action items both on and not on the list (such as warrant article about building new foundations on non-conforming lots)
  - Quick history: Initial priorities identified by NZAP (Net Zero Action Plan) Implementation working group
    - Electrify Arlington
    - Net-Zero Opt-in Stretch Code – ongoing
    - C-PACE
    - Connect Arlington Plan released
    - EV Education
    - Zero Emissions Fleet Policy
    - ACE Default minimum in most recent solicitation increased; that was approved by Selectboard
  - Other ongoing activities
    - HDC design guidelines – ongoing
    - Gas leak task force, D. Morgan is managing
    - Retrofitting town buildings for electrification; Electrification Master Plan completed
  - Potential new activities since prioritization was established
    - Town's electric supply – contract ending end of 2024
    - C. Cooper asked was the 10-municipality fossil fuel ban pilot program on the list; R. Katofsky said it wasn't on the initial list, but is an ongoing activity; T. Fox said the pilot program is a continuation of the fossil fuel ban action item
    - Deep energy retrofit campaign – CEFC has not dug into that
- R. Katofsky: Propose to reconvene working group for establishing priorities, could be different from or add people to the last task force, would like to reinvigorate small teams to work on individual items. Also asked for feedback on priorities:
  - G. Benson: Redevelopment board will be drafting a warrant article for Fall Special TM to change zoning to bring it into compliance with the

multifamily zoning requirement; would be great if CEFC was ready to support this article, which is needed to qualify for the Fossil Fuel Ban pilot program

- S. Dein: opportunities to do more publicity about unfolding programs, such as tax credits and generous upcoming rebate programs that are not yet drafted
- M. Breslow: several ideas to share; pilots going on in several places to put ground source heat pump loops into gas trenches – could Arlington join in? Also wondering if we could do more with transportation, for example, installing more charging stations in town and/or do anything about mass transit in town
- R. Katofsky: we have those items in our Action Plan, including the ground source heat pump loop placement and EV charging; and in fact already have EV fast charging stations behind Bank of America
- T. Fox: We will have a new transportation planner coming on board, interviewing now, will be a member of the CEFC
- J. Glickel: we could do a lot to promote e-bikes as an alternative form of transport; also thinking we should be measuring how the CEFC work is or isn't impacting community greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- T. Fox: working with Bentley students to do an update on our greenhouse gas inventory, using MAPC data; because of data availability, it will be for the year 2020; confirmed that group is getting whole town data from Eversource
- T. Fox: would like to see CEFC members taking ownership of the action items, perhaps by stepping up to take a leadership role; expectation is that members are coming to the monthly meetings and also participating actively outside of the meetings
- S. Dein: on issue of transportation, MBTA important player but dysfunctional organization; how is town engaging with MBTA and encouraging change? Important priority.
- T. Fox: the future Transportation Planners role will include a lot of engagement with MBTA
- R. Katofsky: helpful to get a subset of the committee together to reactivate the prioritization process. P. Miettinen, M. Breslow, G. Benson, volunteered, also R. Katofsky and T. Fox will participate; will report back to CEFC at March meeting

## **6. Confirm Next Meeting Date March 24, 2023**

Talia will not be present in person; will coordinate with David to do hybrid

## **7. Other Items**

- B. Moulton: will we address deep energy retrofit at a future meeting?
- R. Katofsky: is an action item in the plan; committee will consider as part of re-prioritization
- P. Hanlon: Anne Wright will be a tremendous resource, she has spent a huge amount of time working on deep energy retrofits.

S. Dein moved to end the meeting and D. Morgan seconded. Unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36am.

Submitted by Nellie Aikenhead

# Revisiting CEFC Priorities & NZAP Implementation

March 24, 2023

# Top 3 Prioritization Criteria Chosen by NZAP Implementation Working Group (spring 2021)

1. Priority level in the NZAP
  - High vs. normal
  - Order within each level of prioritization (1, 2, 3 etc.)
2. GHG emissions impact (high, medium, low)
3. Required effort vs. available bandwidth

We are sufficiently far along with implementation that we don't need to revisit these in a formal manner, but we should continue to use them as guiding principles.

# Net-zero buildings

Proposed priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

**Bold** indicates “high priority” items from NZAP

Action Item		Status / Recommendation
<b>NZB 1 &amp; NZB 4</b>	<b>Electrify Arlington campaign &amp; website</b>	<b>Launched / ongoing</b>
<b>NZB 2</b>	<b>Deep energy retrofit campaign</b>	<b>Not started – make part of Electrify Arlington?</b>
<b>NZB 3</b>	<b>Net-zero zoning changes</b>	<b>Opt-in specialized stretch code</b>
NZB 5	Town building EE & RE	Ongoing, led by Talia Fox
NZB 6	Advocate for state net-zero stretch code	Mostly complete
NZB 7	Town procurement policies	Not started
NZB 8	Review Historical District design guidelines	Initiated in 2022 but current on pause
NZB 9	Limit fossil fuels in new construction/major renovations	Ongoing via Specialized code & FFF demo
NZB 10	Special permits to allow changes to dimensional requirements for EE & RE	Not started
NZB 11	Solar requirements for commercial buildings	Ongoing via Spec. code; Req'd by ARB for EDR projects
NZB 12	Opt in to C-PACE	Not started (originally selected as high priority)
NZB 13	Private tree planting near sidewalks	Not started
NZB 14	Partner w/ Vo-tech	Not started
NZB 15	40R smart growth zoning district	Ongoing (MBTA Communities has similarities)
NZB 16	Support training opportunities for Town staff	Training is happening, but not with CEFC involvement
NZB 17	Continue/Expand Green Communities participation	Ongoing, led by Talia Fox



# Zero-emissions mobility

Proposed priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

**Bold** indicates “high priority” items from NZAP

Action Item		Status / Recommendation
ZEM 1	<b>Support Connect Arlington</b>	<b>Launched / ongoing</b>
ZEM 2	<b>Expand public EV charging, on- and off-street</b>	<b>Town staff working on prioritized locations; support from CEFC could be useful</b>
ZEM 3	<b>EV education &amp; awareness building</b>	<b>Make more intentionally part of Electrify Arlington</b>
ZEM 4	<b>Town ZEV fleet policy &amp; plan</b>	<b>Town applied for funding to support plan development; Policy in draft form but on hold, need to revisit.</b>
ZEM 5	Plan to advocate for community transit service needs	Supports Connect Arlington Goal E: "A Transit-Rich Environment"
ZEM 6	Parking policies promote efficient use of space, reduce single occupancy vehicles, promote EVs	Several strategies from Goal area G and F in Connect Arlington relate and generally support this action.
ZEM 7	Policies & guidelines for safe use of e-bikes, scooters, micro-mobility	This is a strategy in Connect Arlington
ZEM 8	Advocate for EV rate designs	Part of Connect Arlington – is mentioned under broad strategy of implementing NZAP recs (already done a DPU for fast charging)
NZB 9	Promote car sharing	Connect Arlington car share strategy under Goal B

# Clean energy supply

Proposed priority

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

**Bold** indicates “high priority” items from NZAP

Action Item		Status / Recommendation
CES 1	<b>ACE to 100% renewables by 2030</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
CES 2	<b>Municipal electricity supply to 100% RE by 2030</b>	<b>Not started</b>
CES 3	<b>Support state legislation to decarbonize region’s electricity supply</b>	<b>Not sure how much this is needed at this point</b>
CES 4	Promote shared ground-source heat pump loops	Not started, can we conduct town-wide assessment?
CES 5	Advocate to accelerated repair of gas leaks, phase out of gas network	Ongoing via Town’s Gas Leaks Task Force

# Proposed organizing framework for ongoing NZAP implementation

- Create small number (3-4) of WGs based around NZAP priority areas
  - Buildings
  - Transportation
  - Energy supply
  - Communications & tracking? (new)
- 1 CEFC member volunteers to lead each WG
- WG responsibilities
  - Liaise with town staff & ongoing activities (e.g., Electrify Arlington, warrant article campaigns)
  - Prioritizing NZAP action items within their area
  - Regular reporting to full CEFC
  - Early identification of CEFC actions needed

# Communications / tracking

- Q: should we establish a communications / tracking working group?



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**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
GOVERNOR

**KARYN E. POLITO**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS  
OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW, G. L. c. 30A, § 20**

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

**WHEREAS**, many important functions of State and Local Government are executed by “public bodies,” as that term is defined in G. L. c. 30A, § 18, in meetings that are open to the public, consistent with the requirements of law and sound public policy and in order to ensure active public engagement with, contribution to, and oversight of the functions of government; and

**WHEREAS**, both the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (“DPH”) have advised residents to take extra measures to put distance between themselves and other people to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

**WHEREAS**, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise authority over public assemblages as necessary to protect the health and safety of persons; and

**WHEREAS**, low-cost telephone, social media, and other internet-based technologies are currently available that will permit the convening of a public body through virtual means and allow real-time public access to the activities of the public body; and

**WHEREAS** section 20 of chapter 30A and implementing regulations issued by the Attorney General currently authorize remote participation by members of a public body, subject to certain limitations;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I hereby order the following:

(1) A public body, as defined in section 18 of chapter 30A of the General Laws, is hereby relieved from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.

Adequate, alternative means of public access shall mean measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public access to the deliberations of the public body. Such means may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body while those activities are occurring. Where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the public is a specific requirement of a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any alternative means of public access must provide for such participation.

A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon conclusion of the proceedings. This paragraph shall not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, that requires allowance for active participation by members of the public.

A public body must offer its selected alternative means of access to its proceedings without subscription, toll, or similar charge to the public.

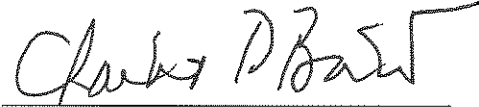
(2) Public bodies are hereby authorized to allow remote participation by all members in any meeting of the public body. The requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at a specified meeting location, as provided in G. L. c. 30A, § 20(d) and in 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b), is hereby suspended.

(3) A public body that elects to conduct its proceedings under the relief provided in sections (1) or (2) above shall ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to do so through remote means, as if the party were a member of the public body and participating remotely as provided in section (2).

(4) All other provisions of sections 18 to 25 of chapter 30A and the Attorney General's implementing regulations shall otherwise remain unchanged and fully applicable to the activities of public bodies.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 6:40 PM this 12th day of  
March, two thousand and twenty.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles D. Baker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts