



Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes

Draft – for approval at the 04-28-2023 meeting

March 24, 2023
8:15 – 9:30 a.m.
Remote Meeting

- Members Remote: Amos Meeks, Coralie Cooper, David Morgan James DiTullio, Marc Breslow, Nellie Aikenhead, Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky (as Chair), Shelly Dein
- Members Absent: Jim Feeney, Eric Helmuth, Talia Fox
- Also attending: Brucie Moulton, Gene Benson, Jacob Glickel, Patrick Hanlon

R. Katofsky convened the meeting at 8:15 am.

1. Virtual Meeting Reminders

- Meeting remotely per Executive Order signed by Gov Baker
- Set to expire at end of month, but likely will be renewed
- Please fill out the hybrid meeting survey; E. Helmuth noted – very useful to Committee, whether positive or negative

2. Review and Approve 2/24/2023 Meeting Minutes

CEFC reviewed the draft minutes from the February 24, 2023, meeting. Minor edits made. S. Dein moved to approve and P. Miettinen seconded. CEFC unanimously approved the 2/24/2023 minutes with a show of hands; A. Meeks abstained - not present at the meeting.

3. Sustainability Updates

A. Specialized Stretch Code

- 3/20 Select Board meeting:
 - Unanimous vote to move Article 10 (Specialized Stretch Code) forward to TM; T. Fox presented, R. Katofsky commented; Select Board enthusiastic - important milestone
- 3/1 Virtual Public Forum:
 - 40-50 zoom attendees; great lineup of speakers, all info will be shared with CEFC
- Volunteering - P. Hanlon:
 - Will have a focus group on Sunday 3/26 to figure out what is causing confusion so can develop a webinar to convey key points of the Opt-In Stretch code

- Will then reach out to all Town Meeting members, especially new members; want to make sure there is a CEFC representative at each precinct meeting
 - Will prepare FAQs, one-page handouts, etc.
 - Then will organize presentation for Town Meeting; typically Chair of Select Board starts the presentation and then hands it off to someone else
 - Article 10 will probably come up early, likely on 2nd or 3rd night of Town Meeting
- B. Electrify Arlington – R. Katofsky
- Town awarded a Community First Partnership, which is a small grant to support activities of Electrify Arlington campaign; if meet certain targets for using the funds, will get \$20k per year for two years; main goal is to hire an energy advocate to help support the Electrify Arlington campaign
 - Combined with the existing Mass Save grant, we'd receive a total of \$50k over two years
- C. EcoFest – R. Katofsky
- Starts April 22 and runs through mid-May, no longer just a day
 - Considering potential of associated open houses – let T. Fox know if willing to open up home to show off heat pumps and other electrified appliances
- D. Gas Leaks Task Force - D. Morgan
- Gas leaks task force resolution also passed by Select Board on 3/20; starting work with National Grid on that; asked National Grid to commit to repairing leaks before the end of the year, and gave them 30 days to respond

4. CEFC Priorities and Working Groups

- R. Katofsky:
 - Talked last month about revisiting our priorities; subsequently met with G. Benson, M. Breslow, T. Fox
 - Goal was to look at all action items to ensure priorities are still accurate
 - Slide 1 – “CEFC Priorities and NZAP Implementation”
 - Concluded that we are sufficiently far enough along that don't need to formally re-prioritize our 31 action items, though we should still continue to use the following criteria as guiding principles
 - Original priority level in NZAP: i.e., High vs. Normal, 1, 2 3 etc.
 - GHG emissions impact (high, medium, low)
 - Required effort vs. available bandwidth
 - Slide 2 – “Net Zero Building Action Items” from NZAP
 - Items 1-4, 6, and 15 are the original high priority items from the NZAP; generally speaking, work on these items is well underway
 - We are now proposing that items 5 and 7–11 become our new high priority items
 - A. Meeks: Why is CPACE (Commercial Property Assessment Clean Energy program which can pay for clean energy programs via utility bills) changed to low priority from high priority?
 - S. Dein: Back then Mass Development was pushing to get CPACE going, and while many communities have signed on, not a lot of deals have closed; now seems not like it won't have a big impact

- P. Miettinen: noted that the priorities largely are about items we have in our basement and in our driveways, as well as about the balance of effort vs. impact
 - G. Benson: clarification on #15: Planning Dept interested in making MBTA community efforts fit into 40R requirements; not clear if that is possible or if 40R will be the mechanism used
 - R. Katofsky: reminder MBTA communities program is a step in qualifying for fossil fuel free pilot
 - S. Dein: surprised #9 (fossil fuel free new construction / major renovations) not a higher priority
 - M. Breslow: do Electrify Arlington items go on this page or another? Where does the heat pump campaign come into play?
 - R. Katofsky: There are some transportation items on the Electrify Arlington page, though right now Electrify Arlington is mostly focused on heat pumps
 - M. Breslow: transportation is hidden on the Electrify Arlington page, and maybe should be broken out? Also not sure that Deep Energy Retrofit Campaign is going to go anywhere, maybe shouldn't be a priority anymore?
 - P. Miettinen: agreed
 - R. Katofsky: Interesting point... Not everyone will gut their home to get to high efficiency level, so how do we address those types of retrofits?
- Slide 3 – “Zero Emissions Mobility” (transportation) items
 - Originally identified items 1 – 4 as high priority and items 5 – 8 as lower priority; believe this still to be the case
 - Connect Arlington Plan covers a lot of these items, but as a committee we have not been very engaged on these efforts; should figure out how to better support efforts going on around town; Item 3 “EV Education and Awareness Building” – probably belongs in Electrify Arlington rather than in Mobility
 - D. Morgan: just got word that we have a new transportation planner coming on board next month; that person will be able to work on some of these items
 - R. Katofsky: Couple electric school busses on the way
 - G. Benson: where will MBTA community zones be located? If within 15 minute walk of Mass Ave or Broadway, will help with zero emissions mobility because people more likely to walk. If spread all over town, less likely to help reduce emissions.
- Slide 4 – Clean Energy Supply: relates to procurement of electricity and gas and what we do about local renewable energy
 - Main thing we have done is the Community Choice electricity program and D. Morgan is heading up the Gas Leaks Task force
 - Need to start thinking about Town's municipal electricity contract, which serves the municipal facilities; haven't in past thought about upping renewables there, but it should be a priority

- Item 3: had as a high priority in action plan – should it remain a priority of this committee still?
 - Town will look at rules that Community Choice Aggregation has to follow; the rules limit the flexibility of Town, not easy to make changes, will be looking at ways to make modifications more easily
 - S Dein: legislation has been filed in both chambers of state house re: aggregation; Arlington is lucky our plan is approved and in force; many (around 30) communities are waiting for approval and that process is taking more than 2 years. Handful of communities have proposed legislation that would force DPU to act in a timely manner and to not micromanage the aggregation process. That would give Arlington more flexibility. There will be opportunities to support state legislation changes. We should be just as concerned about other communities' efforts as we are about our own. Item #2 – municipal energy supply – Arlington can buy RECs by right anytime, that doesn't have to occur at the same time the aggregation contracts are renewed; maybe this is a good time of year to raise the issue as people are thinking ahead to next year's budget
 - D. Morgan: glad mentioned new DPU Commissioners; agree with keeping the state legislation a low priority but the regulations need to be a priority
 - R. Katofsky: big picture legislation vs nuts & bolts details; at least need to keep an eye on the details
 - R. Katofsky: helpful discussion, would like to acknowledge that we have done quite a bit in past two years.
- R. Katofsky: Initially, the CEFC formed groups around specific action items in the NZAP; we now are proposing to have three working groups, each focused on one of the main clusters of action items: net-zero buildings, mobility/transportation, and energy supply.
 - Those groups can meet every so often, liaise with town staff, and report back to CEFC regularly, and would also be nimble enough to respond when new things pop up.
 - One CEFC member would lead each group and then other members and community participants can decide which group(s) to join
 - A. Meeks: few items that don't fit into the 3 categories, for example "municipal procurement" will we work on that or just let it go?
 - R. Katofsky: it's in #7. Under buildings. Schools have sustainability coordinator who is already doing some work on this, for example purchasing green cleaning supplies
 - C. Cooper: thinks it makes sense to reorganize like this
 - R. Katofsky: goal is to have a "living" list of priorities; would like one head person for each working group and for all members to sign up to be on a minimum of one committee
 - Last Slide - Communications: do we need a few members to track and communicate about our efforts and progress?

- P. Miettinen: supports the idea; approaching time when we have some results to track; as well as celebrating the achievements, we need also to evaluate items that were less successful
- P. Hanlon: raising the profile of what committee is doing is helpful; in general having a regular process for getting the word out, via webinars, community education, etc. will strengthen the CEFC impact
- D. Morgan: strong second to P. Hanlon comments. Is planning of communications incumbent on the CEFC or would we use typical Town channels for communicating?
- R. Katofsky; don't want to be redundant, might partly be an issue of better using the Town channels; for example, CEFC page on Town website could probably use updating and refreshing
- P. Miettinen: communications need to have a purpose / goal. One purpose might be recruiting – we need new enthusiastic people to join us
- R. Katofsky: good point; for sure there are lots of people in this community who are eager to engage and take on more; will take all this input back to the working group and will come back to CEFC

Coralie will be stepping down. Have thanked her before and will thank her again for her ongoing participation, will miss you! Have advertised the position and have a couple of interested candidates already.

C. Cooper: thanks everyone, has enjoyed time, hope to keep in touch. Currently doing work at the state level through a multi-state organization that is an Association of Air Pollution Control Programs - 13 northeastern and mid-Atlantic states are participating. Looking at CO2 and NOX standards for water heaters, furnaces, etc. Would like to coordinate more with municipalities, including Arlington.

5. Confirm Next Meeting Date April 28, 2023

S. Dein moved to end the meeting and P Miettinen seconded. Unanimous vote by show of hands. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21am.

Submitted by Nellie Aikenhead