



Clean Energy Future Committee

Date: November 17, 2023

Time: 8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Remote Format Meeting

Minutes

Attendance:

- Members Remote: Aimee Graeber, Amos Meeks, Eric Helmuth, James DiTullio, John Alessi, Mark Breslow, Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky (as Chair), Shelly Dein (joined late), Talia Fox
- Members Absent: David Morgan, Eric Helmuth, Jim Feeney (Town Manager), Nellie Aikenhead
- Also attending: Pat Hanlon, Eugene Benson, Johanna Meyer

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

• **Virtual Meeting Reminders**

- 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 the next meeting.

• **Review and Approve 9/22/2023 Meeting Minutes & Update**

- Item #5 – minor edit. M. Breslow made a motion to approve the amended minutes; P. Miettinen seconded, and the CEFC unanimously approved.
- T. Fox reminded CEFC members to take the online Conflict of Interest training.

• **Sustainability Updates**

- The Town will be holding an event at the Senior Center to share information on rebates and discounts, including on electricity, gas, insulation, and appliances, available to lower income residents. The event is open to anyone who is interested.
- The second wing of the new high school, our flagship, all electric building, is now open.

• **CEFC Prioritization Working Groups**

- The CEFC has established Buildings, Transportation, and Energy Supply working groups whose members will discuss and prioritize items included in the Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) chart. The objective is to identify the one or two most important action items in each category.

- P. Miettinen pointed out that the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions are our heating systems and our vehicles, and that electrification of both should be a top priority.
- BREAKOUT ROOMS (Buildings and Transportation only; R. Katofsky joined Transportation)
 - Buildings
 - i. Procurement (NZB#7) – this action item focuses on how the Town can encourage Net Zero products through its procurement process. A similar, but unstated, idea is how individual households can be similarly encouraged. Town procurement opportunities include energy sourcing, replacement heating systems, new vehicles, and many other items. One recent example is the Request for Proposals (RFP) that was issued for replacement of several school rooftop heating systems, and which included a requirement that the vendor provide an all-electric option. Another option is to set embodied carbon or building materials standards. The state is already working on that as an important priority, which could create some good partnership opportunities.

There needs to be some type of policy for incorporating these types of requirements, so they can't be forgotten or overlooked in the RFP process. For example, the new Community Building / Senior Center includes a gas stove in the kitchen, and this could have been easily avoided. P. Hanlon and A. Meeks will do further research on procurement and P. Miettinen will research pricing.

- ii. Net-Zero Zoning Changes (NZB#3) – this is important because approximately half the lots in Town are non-conforming, and builders MAY still be doing what is essentially a renovation project instead of a new build on those lots, and that enables them to skirt some of the energy efficiency requirements. Further research is needed to determine whether the new energy codes and/or the FFF Bylaw has effectively eliminated this loophole. Educating and providing training for the building department and the builders in general would be helpful.
- iii. Partner with VOTEC/Trade Schools (NZB#14) – there is a tremendous opportunity for young people looking to go into the trades to take the lead on these new and upcoming technologies, both because they are in the learning stage and because older workers are retiring.
- iv. Side Note – E. Benson: the ARB will consider some of the NZAP action items at the next meeting. The ARB will also be discussing rezoning Arlington Heights. The ARB also recently passed a requirement that trees be planted at new residential development sites, and extended the requirement for solar panels to include all new buildings built on the Mass Ave or Broadway corridors under the MBTA Communities bylaw.
- v. Review Energy Efficiency Barriers in Historic Districts (NZB8) – this discussion was started some while back, but not continued. The Working Group needs to determine whether this is a priority at this point in time.

- Transportation

Working Group summary: Decided to focus on two things: 1) understanding the need for public EV charging and 2) determining what the Town fleet procurement requirements should be and how the policy would actually work.

- **Next Meeting Date December 15th**

P. Miettinen moved to end the meeting and S. Dein seconded. Unanimous vote by show of hands.

Submitted by Nellie Aikenhead 2/18/2024