
Climate Change Council

Meeting Minutes: April 8, 2021 - FINAL

Committee Members:

Ken Hartlage
Susan Edwards
Jason Veysey
Beth Faxon
Jessica Veysey Powell
Renee D'Argento
Jim Scarsdale
Chuck Walkovich
Bob Cataldo

Members of the Public:

Tony Beattie

Meeting:

Meeting started at 7:02 PM

Review and approval of Minutes:

Minutes from March 18, 2021 approved (Motion: Jessica Veysey Powell; seconded: Jason Veysey; 6-0).

Tonight's Agenda:

Reports from Work Groups

Energy Production Group: Jason, Sue & Bob

- Bob discussed SolSmart information and wanted to know how the form would get filled out. Also, Bob mentioned that there was the option for a Consultation and who should be involved. Ken stated that the Town Planning committee submitted a form. **Action item:** Ken said that he would speak with Lisa Davis to try and get a copy of the form and determine the status. **Follow-Up:** Town Planning committee got back to Ken with the completed form. It was determined that the SolSmart option be put on hold for the time being.
- Bob discussed solar options, specifically on town buildings and the landfill. Jason stated that Andrew MacLaeen was skeptical of roof installations due to roof quality. It was mentioned that the Town currently has a Power Purchase agreement, and there were questions as to how this might affect future decisions. Renee wanted to know if all this would be cost effective. There was a lot of general discussion, but the

consensus was that we need to bring in an expert to provide options and issues.

Action Item: Sue knows a solar consultant (Glen Reid) in Carlisle and will ask him if he might be willing to chat with the EPG sub-group and possibly the entire Council.

- Regarding solar on the landfill: **Action Item:** Tony will send what information he has to Jason and including any information from the company (Borrego) that worked on the project in the past. There were some prior discussions with Borrego that the landfill area (~20 acres) would need an additional 20 acres to make the project cost-effective.
- The group thought it would be a good idea to get information on the number of Town buildings, open land, etc. that might be usable for solar. Did not identify who would do this.
- **Action Item:** Andrew MacLean stated that he would get a list of Town electrical usage and costs.
- Ken will seek a list of town properties from Andrew MacLean.

Energy & Efficiency Group: Renee, Jim & Beth

- Ken mentioned that the 2015 Master Plan had a Stretch Code (for net zero energy usage for buildings) which has already been adopted. **Action Item:** Renee will speak with the Building Department to see how the Stretch Code is working. Renee will also speak with Beverly Woods from Tewksbury to get some additional information about net zero expenses and what modifications were required.
- **Action Item:** Renee is going to speak with Beverly Woods to get some information on the Scenic Road Bi-Laws and Chapter 87 – Shade Tree Protection Bi-Laws.
- **Action Item:** Jim is going to contact National Grid to get information on the Town's energy use footprint.
- Tony mentioned that he would like to get a "clothesline survey" started to see about eventually getting rid of clothes dryers. This was put on hold for the time being.
- **Action Item:** Tony was going to provide some information on farmland energy information.

Energy Procurement Group: Jason, Sue & Renee

- **Action Item:** Renee was going to check about municipal aggregation. Andrew MacLean stated that he has not started work on Town aggregation.
- The group would like a Warrant Article at Town meeting dealing with Workstream Balance by end of 2021; this action would need to be explored further with Town officials. Also, there was discussion about choosing an aggregator.
- It was mentioned that residences and business benefit from aggregation, but not the Town as a whole.

Carbon Sequestration, Education and Outreach Group: Sue, Beth & Ken

- **Action Item:** Jessica was going to get GIS data on carbon sequestration in Pepperell and see if it is in an accessible format. .
- **Action Item:** Tony was going to engage the NE Energy Group to get some information about net zero issues.
- NRWA is having an upcoming presentation on Pesticides & Herbicides.

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- There was a general discussion on how to do better outreach to the community for general climate and pollution issues.
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- Sue has started a brochure on problems with pesticides & herbicides and wanted some input and help with it.

Open Space Residential Subdivision Group: Beth, Ken, Jessica & Chuck

- Open Space Residential Subdivision (OSRD) revision information – NMCOG has put this on back-burner due to other priorities.
- It was mentioned that when permits are being generated individuals with sufficient ecological-conservation knowledge are not always in the room participating in the decisions. The group was discussing how to ensure that the correct people are included in future OSRD permit decisions.
- Ken stated that the State Model Bylaw had a 50% Open Space requirement. The question came up “What is the definition of Conservation Land?” (i.e., what uses are allowed and prohibited in conserved land under the OSRD bylaw)?
- Tony stated that the 6 New England states were in talks about net zero options.

Other Items

- No other items
- Meeting adjourned ~ 9:00 PM (Motion: Renee D’Argento; Sue Edwards seconded; 9-0)
- Next meeting will be on May 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM