

Energy Climate Action Committee Meeting
Minutes – 06/21/2022
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 7:05pm

Members Present: Michael DeChiara, Leslie Cerrier, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard, Miriam Defant, Graeme Sephton, Zoe Weizenbaum .

Members Absent: none

Public Attendees: Henry Geddes

Reviewed the nature of minutes and what they should and should not include.

Nate reported on items in Hazard Mitigation Plan and MVP plan

Reviewed hazards and the related threats to energy

*Reviewed prioritized actions as well as which committees we might engage to take action
Nate agreed to make a spreadsheet of action priorities for the committee to review. This list can then be used to report to the select board.*

Gail reported on the household energy survey

*Oil and propane chief energy source. Many ppl are thinking of changing to more sustainable source. More than half would use charging station. Cost of electricity and that energy be from renewable source is very important to respondents. 182 respondents. Reviewed answers to open ended question at end of survey. Many ppl want central source of information and expressed interest in community solar and solar storage.
Discussed how to educate ppl about ECAC resources. The committee agreed that it's fine for Gail to respond to individuals with a personal response to help educate and engage.
Henry offered to give short presentation on how to communicate science information*

Gail reported on the energy audit

We are eligible for green communities grant but we first need an audit of all town buildings. The last audit was in 2009. Gail agreed to initiate process with National Grid and contacting Becky Torres.

Michael reported on AARPA Fund opportunity

Michael suggested asking for money for climate adaptation fund and/or money for a consultant to help with an updated master plan process. Miriam suggested asking for money for an engineering study to get ball rolling on better road repair. Leslie suggested getting money for grant writer and/or money to get community solar started. Graeme suggested extending some solar systems with money.

Nate reported on community choice aggregation.

Nate explained the benefits of hiring a broker to help with the process of becoming aggregated. He explained that we could launch more quickly with a broker after which we could become more independent. Gail suggested that we ask select board if ECAC could be on the agenda for September town meeting to explain what it means to be aggregated.

Motion: Gail moved to proceed with presenting CCA to be voted on at town meeting. Graeme-second. Vote: Leslie- Aye, Gail- Aye, Miriam- Aye, Zoe- Aye, Graeme-Aye. Nate-Aye

All agreed to share warrant article that Nate wrote. Gail agreed to work on webpage to educate public on CCA.

Discussed next steps with community solar.

Michael agreed to reach out to Marianne to express interest and ask for help on assessments of potential solar sites.

Zoe agreed to be point person for Celebrate Shutesbury contact.

Motion to Adjourn: Nate moves to adjourn. Vote: Leslie- Aye, Gail- Aye, Miriam- Aye, Zoe- Aye, Graeme-Aye. Nate-Aye

Meeting Close: 8:54pm

Respectfully submitted by Zoe Weizenbaum