

## Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes – 8/15/23

(Approved 9/19/23)

*Virtual Meeting*

ECAC meeting was called to order at Select Board meeting at 7:01 pm

**Members Present:** Michael DeChiara, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard

Heard updated info on process of initiating CCA, noting that there is no direct cost to the Town in researching/securing an Energy Broker.

- SB agreed with Heard being the point person for moving things forward, working with ECAC to develop scope and strategy, reporting back to SB.
- Formal RFP is not required, but Heard will have a conversation with Town Administrator (Chief Procurement Officer) to determine proper process. Heard will continue getting info on particular brokers and will provide justification for recommending any particular broker to the SB.

ECAC meeting adjourned at the SB at 7:28pm.

Meeting reconvened at ECAC zoom link, called to order at 7:31pm.

**Members Present:** Michael DeChiara, Miriam DeFant, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard

Public: Mary Lou Conca

Public Comment: None

### **Report on Stretch codes (Heard)**

- State Building Code is reviewed every three years regarding energy efficiency, e.g., tightness of building envelope, etc.
- State has issued a more stringent Specialized (“Net Zero”) Code aimed at new home construction or major renovation for towns to adopt by approval at Annual Town Meeting.
- Heard proposes that ECAC do ‘homework’ on the new [Specialized Stretch Code](#) and provide an opportunity to educate Town and promote incentives toward energy-efficiency.

### **Reviving our workgroup discussions (DeFant)**

- Can we carve out a path that doesn’t require grant-writing?
- Instead of internal discussion, prepare topics to engage/educate Town residents — relationship of particulars to overarching climate change
- Topic possibilities:
  - Invasive species in *altered eco-system under pressure from climate change*, e.g., woolly adelgid making stands of hemlock fire-ready

- Stormwater *management in light of climate change* renews need for public education re homeowner management of runoff from driveways, slopes, etc.

### **Growing the committee**

- New member prospects?
- Develop ECAC program topics for Fall issue of Our town Newsletter to draw interest

### **Engaging other Town departments or committees**

- What committees would we go to in light of these workshop topics?
- DeFant: Public forum to invite resident concerns and ideas regarding erosion, house integrity, etc.
- Work with SES Principal Jackie Mendonsa to understand how climate change/environmental science is introduced as a topic in 5th and 6th grade
- On agenda for next meeting: discussion of potential climate change forums for education and engagement

### **6/27/23 Minutes**

Heard moved to consider Minutes of June 27<sup>th</sup> for discussion. DeChiara seconded. Unanimous approval with ayes from DeChiara, Defant, Fleischaker, and Heard.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

Fleischaker moved to adjourned, Defant seconds. Unanimous approval with ayes from DeChiara, Defant, Fleischaker, and Heard.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Gail Fleischaker.*