

Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting

Minutes – 05/28/2024

[*approved 6/18/2024*]

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 5:00pm

Committee Members Present: Michael DeChiara, Gail Fleischaker, Isaac Goldstein, Nate Heard

Committee Members Absent: None

Public: None

Discussion on Green Communities

Chris Mason, Regional Coordinator, Green Communities, joined the meeting.

Feedback on Stretch Code communications

Michael shared a slide that illustrated the differences between the stretch code and specialized code. Chris Mason helped the committee interpret the way DOER depicts the differences between the stretch code and specialized code in its outreach materials. Reference to solar PV in the Specialized Code means PV installation, not just prewiring. The opt-in code is just the specialized code plus solar installation and pre-wiring for full electrification.

Climate Leaders Community program

Chris Mason lead the committee through the Climate Leaders Program. Green Communities is oriented towards promoting energy efficiency. Climate Leaders helps get us to Net Zero by 2050, to which the state is already committed.

To achieve certification as a Climate Leader, towns must be a Green Community in good standing and commit to decarbonization by 2050 (just municipal operations) through a town meeting, or Selectboard vote, or a master plan. Towns develop a roadmap for implementation. Adoption of a ZEV-First policy and specialized stretch code is also determined at a town meeting.

Towns gain recertification every three years, update their roadmap, and implement a “best practice” (often community facing). There are grants we might be able to use to develop proposals.

Smaller communities can apply to Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META). There are Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants (Federal grant).

ECAC will meet with the Select Board, discuss next steps, and organize a public hearing that meets the requirements. Ashfield was able to accomplish everything in one Town Meeting. We

should be in touch with them. Electrify everything (local, individual) and clean the grid (local, individual, state)

Preparation for Meeting with Select Board meeting on June 4th

At the June 4 Selectboard meeting, we're hoping for a vote on the choice of a CCA energy broker. At minimum, Selectboard will provide feedback on ECAC's recommendation of Colonial Power Group. The other agenda item of interest is a discussion of ECAC's role as a committee in relation to the Selectboard.

General updates

- There is no need for a letter from ECAC regarding solar for the new library.
- There are no action items for ECAC related to the EV charger application.
- The Amherst/Pelham/Noho CCA is advancing.
- Current members want to renew their appointments to ECAC.

Minutes

Gail moved to approve the minutes of 4/23. Nate seconded. Vote to approve: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Isaac Goldstein, Aye; Nate Heard Aye.

Next meeting will occur on June 18th at 5pm

Motion to Adjourn: Isaac moved to adjourn. Gail seconded. Vote: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Isaac Goldstein, Aye; Nate Heard Aye.

Meeting adjourned: 6:22pm

Respectfully submitted, Nate Heard