

# Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting

Minutes – 06/18/2024

[approved 7/30/2024]

## *Virtual Meeting*

Meeting Called to order by Michael at 5:02

Minute taker for next meeting Gail

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

**Public Comments** N/A

### **5:10 Follow-up from All Boards meeting (Gail)**

Discussion in response to mandate of Hybrid meetings – this practice (started during the pandemic) may come to a close at the end of this term. Select Board looked to committees for preferences of In-Person, Hybrid or Virtual meetings. The general consensus is our town would be ill equipped for mandated Hybrid meetings. Selectboard to write a statement to deliver to congress people.

Discussion of ECAC preference – Gail, Isaac, Michael, and Nate would like to keep the ECAC meetings on Zoom.

### **5:20 Follow-up from Select Board joint meeting**

Select Board is allowing ECAC to operate more autonomously, not needing to bring everything to the Select Board for initial recommendation.

### **Next Steps for CCA (Nate)**

ECAC was allowed to work with Colonial Power and the Select Board has an agreement that needs to be signed (By Rita Farrell, Melissa Makepeace, and Erik Stocker) and sent back. Michael will meet with Becky at Town Hall to see if she can sign on behalf of everyone.

Michael mentioned he will remove (highlighted) language on RFP from the contract document. Nate clarified that there was a FRCOG RFP (49 page) document in which Shutesbury was previously named with the DPU. Nate has a copy of FRCOG RFP, which was initially emailed 8/10/23.

Michael will make edits to contract documents to include our process. Nate mentioned if we edit, it may need to be sent back to Colonial then back to us for signature then back to Colonial. Gail recommended adding any changes as a footnote or clearly noting our edits.

Michael referred to a 92-page document on Clean Energy passed by the State which may have mentioned aggregation, he will look more closely at it.

### **-Update committee charge (Michael)**

Select Board agreed for us to update the original committee charge to make ECAC more autonomous. Rita originally drafted it and is working on an edit with Michael. ECAC Committee will review edits and send back to Select Board

Nate provided a top to bottom rewrite of the charge directly to Rita. Nate shared his Charge Draft with ECAC. Two main goals. One is to bring the committee number down to 5 and the other is to change the

goal from decarbonization to be more specific and make direct reference to Green House Gasses (GHG) and Fossil fuels.

ECAC will work off Nate's Updated Charge. ECAC went through the document to come to agreed-upon language for the official charge.

Nate will send to Michael to send to Becky and Rita

#### **5:45: Next steps regarding Climate Leadership Program - CLP (Michael)**

ECAC reviewed requirements for Climate Leadership Community Certification. Trying to figure out order of operations on requirements.

Isaac clarified the need to have Public Forum for Specialized Opt-In code for change in By-Law prior to being able to submit letter of intent to join CLP. After submission of intent we would be assisted with decarbonization roadmap by a consultant.

Gail confirmed that we are in good standing as a Green Community. Gail asked Chris if the town has submitted the required reporting on completion of 2023 municipal weatherization funded by the 2023 GC award. Chris was asked to let us know when GC Competitive Grant 2024 block two application is available.

Nate confirmed Fossil Fuel Use component can be done via town meeting or via Select Board

Michael recommended that if there is a forum for special town meeting, the ECAC should lump the Vehicle policy, Opt-In, and Fossil Fuel components to single meeting – if town meeting approval is needed

#### **6:00: Discuss heat pump option for municipal buildings. Coordination with Buildings Committee (Gail)**

Stephen Dallmus – Chair of Building Committee, says the issue of adding heat pumps to municipal buildings is not a simple question. Each building has its own peculiarities and history. In order to apply for grant funding we would need to know the building's structural condition and a clear definition of what's required for installation in each case.

Gail mentioned the possibility to diversify between heat pump and solar panels to reach lowered energy use goal and getting off fossil fuels.

The building committee can provide information on upcoming or scheduled replacements and structural integrity of the roofs of our municipal buildings .

Gail will invite Stephen Dallmus to July 30<sup>th</sup> meeting for an introductory discussion with the ECAC

#### **6:15 Updates**

N/A

#### **6:20 Minutes**

Motion to adopt minutes for May 28<sup>th</sup> made by Gail, seconded by Michael. Unanimously approved

Next meeting date: July 30<sup>th</sup>

Motion to Adjourn made by Isaac, Seconded by Gail. Passed Unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 6:20

*Respectfully submitted, Isaac Goldstein.*