

# Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes – 9/17/2024

[approved 10/22/2024]

*Virtual Meeting*

Meeting called to order at 5:04pm.

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

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Public attendees:** None

## Climate Leader Program

— Review of CLP document drafts to be presented for approval at Town Meeting

\* Municipal Decarbonization Resolution: Utilizes Ashfield’s approved resolution as template as it provides what DOER wants. Our version further qualifies our commitment to taking steps as their being contingent on getting appropriate support. Isaac moves and Nate seconds ECAC’s approving resolution as presented; approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye.

\* Specialized Energy Code Bylaw: Document opens with statement of Context, establishing Town’s intent to adopt the Specialized Energy Code Bylaw and clarifying that new (2023) provisions apply only to new construction. The Warrant Article language refers to repeal of the Stretch Energy Code Bylaw (adopted at [10/26/2010 Special Town Meeting](#)) and its replacement with the Specialized Energy Code Bylaw. The bylaw language that follows is taken from Ashfield’s DOER-approved bylaw. Gail moves and Isaac seconds ECAC’s approving the bylaw as amended; approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye.

\* Zero-Emission-First Vehicle Policy: Policy language is taken from Ashfield’s approved document. Questions concerning meaning of “determined as” and “feasible” will most likely arise in TM discussion. Isaac moves and Nate seconds ECAC’s approving the zero-emission policy as presented; approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye.

\* Decarbonization Roadmap: Do we want to follow DOER’s guidance for composing a DYI roadmap? Apply for grant funding for a consultant to draw one up? Have an amendable “roadmap” as a game plan to present to TM? Michael will send the DOER guidance document for discussion at our next meeting.

— Next steps/planning: Education and messaging re ECAC activity, e.g., materials/handouts on Climate Leader Program as well as on CCA status at Town Birthday Party October 6<sup>th</sup> (Nate will table).

— Michael’s *Our Town* article revised slightly, to be submitted for Fall 2024 issue.

## Updates

— CCA (Nate)

Colonial and other brokers in conversation with DPU to standardize steps and streamline application procedure. Colonial is ready to meet with representatives of ECAC and Select Board to discuss messaging and set expectations. The steps following that meeting will be Colonial’s presentation of a Standard Plan to ECAC and Select Board and DOER consultation.

— Green School Works (Nate)

Any project we may want to propose for GSW hinges on Buildings Committee's assessment of priorities at SES. We might move something into proposed Roadmap, e.g., in coordination with Buildings Committee.

"Incoming" Items

— FY26 MVP Action Grants: any action now? Expression of interest by Nov 1st.

— Representative for Fort River Watershed Association (FoRWA): \$8,000 to share among watershed towns (Amherst, Belchertown, Hadley, Pelham, and Shutesbury) for fisheries, dams, etc., though not clear how those funds would be divided/distributed. Michael will stay in touch with them to keep apprised of activities.

— Town-Wide Birthday Party: Oct 6th

— Green Communities Summit: Nov 1, Devens, MA

— Building Electrification Accelerator: Nate signed up for newsletter/ mailing list

—EV chargers: Given advocacy of “zero-emission-first” policy, ECAC sees necessity of obtaining EV chargers for municipal vehicles. Isaac will check out East Coast Renewable as well as experience in communities serviced by ECR (e.g., Wrentham). Michael will send email to SB informing them of shift in ECAC's point of view, inviting Eric to be liaison as before.

Motion to approve minutes of 7/30/24 meeting moved by Michael, seconded by Gail.  
Motion approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye.

Next meeting. 5:00pm, Tuesday, October 15th.

Motion to adjourn moved by Isaac, seconded by Nate.  
Motion approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.

*Respectfully submitted, Gail Fleischaker*