

## Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes – 10/22/2024

*[approved 11/19/2024]*

Virtual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm.

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

Committee Members Absent: None

Public attendees: None

4:35 Public Comments – N/A

4:40 Updates and next steps

### **-Town Bday party - observations/feedback (Nate)**

Good turnout and some new to town attendees. Arrived with printouts with CCA FAQ (checked with Colonial to ensure they were accurate) Also had powerpoint of Colonial describing who they are as a company to present to citizenry. Did not field many questions: When is CCA happening? Looking at Spring start if all goes well.

### **-CCA (Nate)**

In dialogue with Colonial about how to set expectations for the process moving forward. Had a call with Mark and Denise at Colonial regarding next steps. Colonial has reached out to Chris Mason, our Regional Coordinator for Green Communities at DOER, who wanted to have a meeting with an ECAC representative and a town administrator.

In the states new process to set up new CCA plans, there has always been a meeting with DOER. These meetings are now occurring earlier in the process. Becky unable to make the meeting. Michael was able to join. Chris Mason, Colonial, Nate, Michael, DOER rep were present but no one from the select board. We were able to satisfy DOER with this meeting. Nate filled out a questionnaire in advance of meeting that helped to facilitate the DOER inquiries.

Michael reflects on the call that we demonstrated we are thinking thoughtfully about the CCA process.

Additionality, as a concept, was discussed. Massachusetts has a well developed green energy system. In theory, additionality expands the opportunities for green energy development by creating market pressure for more, not just taking advantage of previously established facilities.

When a producer creates a unit of renewable energy it can bring that to market as a credit. Purchasing Class 1 RECs might stimulate demand for additional renewable energy projects. However, in MA there is a cap on the amount of money you can charge for a rec which could mute the signal of demand.

We might have opportunities to stimulate new renewable energy projects in different areas by creating additional demand. Attempt to create opportunities by strategically purchasing recs in markets outside of MA and New England.

Colonial's role in additionality would be to facilitate the purchase of recs and make recommendations on where we could purchase recs that could make a difference.

Nate is awaiting documents for review for CCA. Once these documents are reviewed we can present to Selectboard for review. Michael will check in with Selectboard to see when they would be able to review our presentation of the CCA documents.

#### **-EV chargers for municipality (Isaac)**

Isaac spoke with James from ECR, who had been doing outreach, and asked the list of preexisting questions we had about the process. He had only been with the company for two months so recommended Isaac touch base with Nick. If we were to manage our own chargers the annual upkeep of \$600/port per charger would be on us (and there are two ports per charger). This is done with a contract through a third-party vendor that ECR works with. They would provide 1 year of software charges if we were to manage on our own. If they manage, they extend it to 5 years, however it is unclear how much the software would cost after their grace period. It is also unclear if we do have them manage the chargers if they would continue to cover the charges for the software. The software links the chargers to a map of available charging stations that users can link to and also provides alerts to the company if a charging station were offline for any reason.

James provided a list of contacts from municipalities that are currently working with them. Isaac had drafted a list of questions to ask of town representatives to gather more information to present at our next meeting.

Michael will make introduction to his connection in MMA to inquire about reputation and any experience with EV charger vendors.

**Plans for Climate Leader Designation including Decarbonization Roadmap process (Michael)**

There is a new funding round (PON? Essentially an RFP) coming up November 29<sup>th</sup>. Recommended we go for a funding round deadline coming in July (last Friday of the month) after town meeting. Wait on climate leadership program until we can start educating in the new year to do outreach in advance of the town meeting. Application for designation is required after completion of roadmap, but seemingly a formality.

Fort River watershed association \$8000 grant. The five towns involved in this grant are Shutesbury, Pelham, Belchertown, Amherst and Hadley. The conversations are being facilitated by Bruce Steadman in Amherst. Mostly looking at water, things affecting the Fort River watershed in the adjoining communities. Michael's contribution is to investigate our possible impacts of watershed down stream from us. Impact on water quality, water retention, and accessibility. Looking for cross municipality cooperation.

Motion to approve minutes from 9/17/24 moved by Isaac, seconded by Nate.  
Motion approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye.

Next meeting. November 19<sup>th</sup> 5pm Notes by Nate

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

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15pm

*Respectfully Submitted Isaac Goldstein*