

Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes – 12/17/2024

[*approved 01/14/2024*]

Virtual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:03pm.

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

Committee Members Absent: None

Public attendees: None

Updates

— Community Choice aggregation (CCA): Nate

Colonial apologized for the hold-up, a downstream effect of trying to move forward in the process at the same time that procedures (e.g., application template) are in the midst of changing. Colonial has promised to get us something before the start of the new year.

— EV Chargers: Isaac

The several communities who answered our questions reported positive responses regarding their contract experience with East Coast Renewable Energy (ECR), but some are in process so their responses do not represent meaningful length of service. Amy (from Worthington) reports that if ECR owns the charger, parking at the charger spot is limited to an EV user.

The Town/Selectboard develops a grant application with ECR and submits same to the utility for approval. Many things need yet to be determined before ECAC can make any recommendation to the Selectboard —

Siting questions: infrastructure needs? number of chargers to install? what charger levels to install? where to install? do we have data to back up request for installation at any site?

Funding and cost questions: costs in the short term? costs in the long term? is a funding source stable (e.g., Eversource money has run out)? how will the incoming national administration affect future policy re support of EV municipal vehicles?

Isaac will reach out to most likely constituents (Police Dep't, Fire Dep't, SES, and Library) to determine their wishes re installation (yes? no?) and if yes, the scale of installation.

Still not clear on the process: what's ECR's timeline?

— Climate Leaders Program & Decarbonization Roadmap Grant.

Nate submitted a timely application. Chris Mason offered support for outreach and we intend to engage him for the Public Hearing. We can anticipate hosting a Public Hearing some time in March, assuming that ATM is in late April.

New Business / Ideas

— Leverett is considering a microgrid via their MLP for their municipal buildings. Richard Nathhorst was a member of the original Broadband Advisory Committee, appointed by the Leverett Select Board in 2011. Michael will invite him to come to our Jan or Feb meeting to discuss.

— Climate Leader webinar Jan 16th. Nate (and Michael?) signed up for the webinar ‘though it’s not clear what its substance will be.

Motion to approve minutes of 11/19/24 meeting made by Gail, seconded by Isaac.
Motion approved unanimously: Michael, Aye; Gail, Aye; Isaac, Aye; Nate, Aye.

Next meeting. 5:00pm, Tuesday, January 14. 2025.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Fleischaker