

Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting  
Minutes – 4/29/2025  
[Approved 6/03/2025]  
*Virtual Meeting*

**Meeting Start:** 7:01PM

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

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Public:** Eric Stocker attended this meeting

**Public comment**

None

**Climate Leader Communities**

The committee reviewed the proposed opt-in specialized code bylaw language following the March 17 public hearing on the code. The committee updated some language in the proposed Town Meeting article to reflect that the latest version of the stretch code went into effect on February 14, 2025 and that the “additional provisions of the Specialized Energy Code” apply only to new construction and not to renovations.

The committee voted to approve the Specialized Energy Code bylaw language. Vote to approve: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye

**EV Chargers – Next steps**

The committee agreed that the town should not opt to own EV chargers, deciding that it's better for East Coast Renewables (ECR) to own and manage the chargers, at least at first. Isaac has dropped off the committee and can no longer lead this project.

Regarding possible locations for ECR-managed level 2 chargers, options include the school, town hall, and the highway department. When ECR conducts site visits to assess location appropriateness, the committee recommends visiting the fire department, even if it might not be an optimal location.

For next steps, the committee suggested that Hayley Bolton, Shutesbury's new Town Administrator, might be an effective EV charger point person. Action items are to get in touch with Isaac for the purpose of the hand off and to dialogue with ECR to resolve any questions that remain. ECAC members and Eric Stoker are interested in joining any site visits.

**Lighting bylaw and Shutesbury Elementary School**

Shutesbury Elementary School (SES) floodlights are on all night. Although Shutesbury's lighting bylaw intentionally used an effective date that excluded SES from mandatory compliance, the intent of the bylaw is to minimize unnecessary lighting. The committee would like to know if motion detectors could be deployed at SES and recommends that after Town Meeting, the Town Administrator embark on an assessment of lighting at municipal buildings,

perhaps in conjunction with the Building Committee, with the goal of minimizing unnecessary lighting.

### **Community Choice Aggregation**

Select Board voted to approve the aggregation plan following the closing of the public comment period. Colonial and the new DPU guidelines do not require that we submit the approved minutes that capture Select Board vote. However, once the minutes are available, we can send them to Colonial for their records, should Colonial be queried. In the meantime, Colonial is working with their attorney to get everything pulled together and filed with DPU in the next week or two.

### **Preparation for Town Meeting**

Michael is prepared to present the three ECAC-sponsored articles related to Climate Leader Communities at Town Meeting. Nate will prepare an updated FAQ on CCA and send it to Gail so that the most up-to-date information on CCA is available as a handout at Town Meeting.

### **Recruitment of new members**

The committee supported the idea to join the Planning Board in a single Town Announcement that publicizes Planning Board and ECAC openings.

### **Minutes**

Nate moved to approve the minutes from 3/11/2025. Michael seconded. Vote to approve minutes: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye

### **Appreciation**

ECAC appreciated the contributions of Isaac Goldstein to ECAC.

### **Next date**

June 3 is the date of the next ECAC meeting.

### **Close**

Gail moved to adjourn the meeting, Nate seconded. Vote to adjourn: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye

Respectfully submitted, Nate Heard.