

**Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting
(as part of Select Board hybrid meeting, Town Hall)**

Minutes – 11/15/2025
[Approved 12/09/2025]

Meeting Start: 5:02pm

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

Committee Members Absent: Greg Day

Select Board – Melissa Makepeace O’Neil, Eric Stocker, Rita Farrell, Hayley Bolton Public: Brennan Mailloux, Tom Siefert

Michael reported to the Select Board about the completion of the Decarbonization Roadmap. Michael shared that ECAC sought this presentation so that the Select Board could ask questions and officially receive the report. Michael stated that the Roadmap is significant in its being the final requirement the the Town’s completion of Climate Leader Community program status. The Select Board had no questions and expressed appreciation. Michael commended the Buildings Committee for its work on the Building Inventory which was one of the three primary inputs for the report; the other inputs being a summer site visit to all the identified buildings and the data on the Massachusetts Energy Insights (MEI) website.

Michael then addressed the importance of achieving Climate Leader Community status. Most notably, there is a grant program that will pay for climate- and energy-related projects. Currently there are only a few other communities in Western Mass. with Climate Leader status so competition is low. Nate added that a Climate Leader Community also gets priority status for other grant programs. The Climate Leader Community program is managed by DOER’s Green Communities Division

The application deadline for Climate Leader Community status is Dec. 31, 2025. The application must be done on the MEI website.

The Select Board voted to authorize Hayley Bolton, Town Administrator, to apply for the Climate Leader Status on behalf of the Town. Michael will prepare the application so that Hayley can then formally submit the application.

Hayley asked the Select Board to approve authorization of ECAC’s having full read-write access to the MEI website. This will enable Michael to enter the data necessary for the application. The Select Board unanimously approved ECAC having full access.

Rita expressed appreciation for the data on the MEI website and Joan Hanson for entering the Town’s data; it was helpful in planning for the future of the M.N. Spear building.

Rita asked if ECAC knew if there were any energy audits of all the town buildings. Gail said there were two rounds of audits, the latest being in 2022. The work on upgrading the building envelopes following the most recent audit began in 2024. Rita inquired about any work done specifically at the M.N. Spear building; Gail said she would look for this information and share it with Rita. In regards to future work, Michael referenced the Major Trigger chart in the Decarbonization Roadmap which lays out possible improvements based on the level of energy usage of each building and the useful age of each building's components.

Michael noted for the Select Board that references to the old library in the Roadmap are now to the M.N. Spear building.

Gail moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20. Nate seconded. Vote to adjourn: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye

Respectfully submitted,
Michael DeChiara