

Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting

Minutes – 12/09/2025

[Approved 1/06/2026]

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 7:01pm

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

Committee Members Absent: None

Climate Leader Status (Michael)

Michael completed the MassEnergyInsight (MEI) application for certification of Shutesbury as a Climate Leader Community. Uploading the required documents constituted the application's submission, confirmed with a note of "congratulations" from Chris Mason. We should know by mid-January if we have been certified since the submission prompts (immediate?) review.

Decarbonization Roadmap submission (Michael)

The finalized Decarbonization Roadmap was presented to the Select Board on Nov 25th for their information (the Roadmap's submission did not require SB approval). The report was emailed to our Green Communities liaison, Chris Mason, as well as being uploaded as part of the Climate Leader application.

CCA update (Nate)

After mutual editing with Colonial Power, the postcard language has been finalized for sending to EverSource customers, coming up with language that was technically correct & consistent with our website language, and removing the hyperlinks since they'd be of no use from a postcard.

Stormwater Mitigation and Implementation Committee (Michael)

Stormwater mitigation around Lake Wyola was original intended as focussing on Lake Wyola, given the work of the Lake Wyola Stormwater Erosion Task Force. The Select Board broadened the charge of newly constituted Stormwater Mitigation and Implementation Committee (SMIC) to address stormwater mitigation town-wide, an effort that speaks directly to activities cited in both the 2020 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (MVP) and the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The new SMIC will have representation from various Town entities, including ECAC. Jennifer is transitioning from Task Force chair to SMIC chair. Greg has already been in contact with her and has been reading the Task Force's watershed plan.

Nate moved to recommend Greg to represent ECAC on the new committee, Gail seconded.

Vote: unanimous approval of formal recommendation.

Michael to follow up with Hayley as to the process for Greg's appointment to SMIC.

Climate Grant eligibility (Michael)

Having a finalized Decarbonization Roadmap in place offers possibility of applying for various grant opportunities that would help address fossil fuel use at SES, the heaviest user among Shutesbury's municipal buildings. Opportunities include grants offered by Green School Works that might apply to SES. Michael took the idea of a collaborative approach to investigate

funding possibilities to the Select Board earlier this evening. It was decided to set up a meeting of the Select Board, Town Administrator, ECAC, Ajay (FinCom), Frank (Buildings Committee), School Committee, and Ellen(Capital Planning) on Tues Dec 16th -- to discuss SES plans and priorities, infrastructure realities at SES, and the appropriateness/feasibility of any grant option.

Nate, Michael, and Anna Heard (School Committee) attended today's Green School Works webinar. Nate suggested we continue to engage with them because of their encouragement of ground source geothermal heating and the separate stream of technical assistance they'll provide ("soft costs" in the grant) for site assessment (retrofitting infrastructure, scale, etc.). If we do have Climate Leader status, we'd have improved standing in the application evaluation because of the timetable and SES prioritization already laid out in the Roadmap. The GSW grant ceiling seems high enough to cover a big project like installation of a ground-source heat pump system.

Nate will request an appointment at Green Schools Work's virtual office hours (Mon Dec 15th).
Questions to ask:

- What is required to be eligible for ground source technical assistance?
- Does our Buildings Committee assessment suffice for requirement?
- What is the timing of assessment results & deadline for grant application?

Minutes

Greg moved to approve minutes of 11/17, Gail seconded. Vote: unanimous approval.
Gail moved the minutes of the shared SB meeting SB 11/25, Michael seconded. Vote: unanimous approval.

Greg moved to adjourn, Gail seconded. Vote: unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.