



Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 **TIME:** 5:00 PM
PLACE: Town Offices **ADDRESS:** 50 Billerica Road **ROOM:** 200

MINUTES

Prepared by Sean McGuigan, Clerk

MEMBERS PRESENT: Badhri Uppiliappan (Chair, in person), Sean McGuigan (Clerk, virtual), Peter Spawn (in person), Bern Kosicki (virtual), Jack Bergstrom (virtual), Priyar Eswar (in person)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Walton, Nicolas Mercier

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Meeting Called to Order at 5:10

Public Input

No public input

New Committee Member

Introductions of current committee members and welcome to Priya Eswar who has lived in Town for 25 years and is happy to join the committee.

Zoom Meeting

Pre-registration is allowed for public access to Zoom. Zoom has been reauthorized to use in Town committee meetings until 2027.

Community First Partnership Grant

Peter reviewed an email he will send to Paul Cohen, Christine Clancy and Lisa Marrone regarding implementing the grant and hiring the Energy Advocate (EA). We met our grant project manager. The first biweekly call is scheduled for April 10 and we will get more information then. We have authorization to hire a EA and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that Paul Cohen signed is the grant's contract. We bill in advance of occurring cost so we can submit a bill for 6 months of the EA's salary. A billing workshop will be held on 4/15. We will develop a work plan over the next 2 months that the EA will work under. Badhri recommends adding details on underserved community members. Peter's next steps are to have a meeting with Town officials to align responsibilities and confirm that the EA will report to the Department of Public Works. We need to agree on a job description and figure out how to advertise for the position and hire. We also need to coordinate with Billerica officials to have sign them sign the MOU addendum.

Perhaps talk to Lowell's Energy Advocate?

We reviewed and provided comment on the draft job description for the EA.

Clean Heat and Solarize Chelmsford Updates

Badhri met with National Grid about having them set up a demo trailer as an experience center with heat pumps. Hopefully, the trailer can visit local schools such as Nashoba Tech and set up there. We are working on funding, perhaps through National Grid, or through equipment suppliers such as Carrier. We can use the Energy Advocate to promote.

Homeworks Energy Update – Home Performance Contractor for MassSave

Recent communications – a flyer in resident tax bills and a separately mailed letter from Paul Cohen ~1,400 audits last year with a goal to double that next year. Homeworks knows we have a Community First partnership. How do we update the MOU we currently have with Homeworks to account for the new EA position.

Chelmsford Choice

A meeting with the Select Board will likely occur in May to discuss Chelmsford Choice. We should emphasize the following main points: Chelmsford Choice is the “best bang for the buck” to get us towards our climate goals, as the advisory board for the town, our recommendation will be to make the Greener option the default, most towns have made Greener the default, we will be sensitive to cost and will select a green energy percentage that is financially comparable or more attractive than National Grid’s standard rates.

Climate Action Plan Update

Badhri attended the Greater Boston Climate Action Plan NMCOG meeting in Dunstable on March 27th. Good conversations but we are doing many of the items that were discussed at the meeting. Perhaps we can make connections to neighboring towns especially in integrated transportation planning?

Town has \$200k for tree planting projects this year. Strategic plan for next 5 years calls for more tree canopy planning. There are also some items related to clean water in the Strategic and Open Space plans.

Meeting Minutes

The March 4th meeting minutes are available for approval. Jack made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Peter and the motion was approved. The meeting minutes will be sent to the Town Clerk.

Sustainability Manager Update

No update

Announcements

No Earth Day program this year from Library
17 sign-ups for CCAT from volunteer fair

May 2025 Meeting Date

We have scheduled our next meeting for May 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.