



Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

Minutes of Public Meeting

Filed with Town Clerk:

RECEIVED

2025-09-16

1:16 PM

TOWN OF
CHELMSFORD
PATRICIA E. DZURIS
TOWN CLERK

"Minutes" - the written report of a meeting created by a public body required by subsection (a) of section 22 and section 5A of chapter 66. [M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18]

DATE: **Wednesday, June 11, 2025** TIME: **7:00 PM**

PLACE: **Town Offices** ADDRESS: **50 Billerica Road** ROOM: **200**

MINUTES

Prepared by Sean McGuigan, Clerk

MEMBERS PRESENT: Badhri Uppiliappan (Chair, in person), Peter Spawn (in person), Bern Kosicki (virtual), Priya Eswar (virtual), Nicolas Mercier (virtual), Sean McGuigan (virtual)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Walton, Jack Bergstrom

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Kovalck, 11 Maple Road, Jackie Zeimbekakis, 28 Whippletree Road, Chris Haley, Sustainability Manager

Meeting Called to Order at 7:05 PM

Public Input

Mr. Kovalck (member of Finance Committee) discussed the special town meeting warrant article regarding removal and replacement of the South Row school roof and the existing solar panels. Steve believes the costs of disposal of 800 10-year-old solar panels are not included in the warrant article. The panels are 10 years old – can we use them either on roofs or ground mounted? How can we reuse them?

Ms. Zeimbekakis made a comment that it is important to consider the price of electricity when setting the rates on Chelmsford Choice and asked how long the program has been available to the Town.

Community First Partnership Grant

Peter, Bern and Chris are taking the trainings for the Energy Advocate as we do not have one in place yet. Town is down to three candidates but no candidate has been settled on yet. Recent trainings have been based on green energy technologies. Future trainings are on metrics. Had two meetings with Billerica. Bilericca will not have their own HPC – they will use ours. Bern will send a list of past complaints that people have made about Homeworks to them and hope that Homeworks will respond in writing accordingly. Perhaps we can set a meeting with Homeworks to discuss? Option to go out with another RFI for other HPC. Go with a model where one company does an audit but another company does the retrofits, green upgrades. All-In-Energy will be helping to evaluate Homeworks. Hopefully we can convert number of Homeworks projects into money/GHG reductions.

Clean Heat and Solarize Chelmsford Updates

Jack, Nicholas and Priyar may be able to assist on the Clean Heat and Solarize Chelmsford. Badhri has written to MassCEC about setting up a demo trailer as an experience center with heat pumps. Empower grant on battery programs. Badhri will speak to companies this week about potential of working with

companies who have solar-ready roofs. Perhaps Nate Walker, GIS, can help us identify large buildings in town? Project Sunroof in Google can also help with this.

Low Impact Development

Sean and Badhri are assisting with the Town's low-impact development working group.

Chelmsford Choice

The Select Board voted to revise the Chelmsford Choice energy aggregation program to make the Greener option the default option. The Committee volunteers to help Chris with pricing. Can we put together how the energy mix will improve based on the amount of green energy purchased? Impact of Chelmsford Choice on Town's GHG reduction. Impact of dollars spent on CC compared to dollar per town

Public Meeting Policy

We adopted the Town Council approved Public Meeting Policy. Peter makes a motion to approve and Sean seconded the motion. Motion passes 6-0.

Climate Action Plan Update

Need to refresh committee liaison updates in July.

Committee Membership Discussion

Need to refresh committee liaison updates in July.

Meeting Minutes

The April 9th and May 14th meeting minutes are available for approval. The minutes were reviewed. Peter made a motion to approve the April 9th meeting minutes as amended and the May 14th meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Sean and the motion was approved. The meeting minutes will be sent to the Town Clerk.

Sustainability Manager Update

Chris has a Climate Leaders Program meeting on Friday and will meet with DPW director to discuss. Chris will share the Climate Leaders roadmap with the Committee. school buildings electrification feasibility study is almost complete – Chris will send to the Committee tomorrow and he is asking for comments by next Tuesday.

Chris has not been part of the discussion on South Row solar panels. Town is going out for engineering study to find out cost analysis of replacing roof, putting existing panels back on, or buying new panels.

Town will not be reimbursed \$39,200 for DPW superchargers because National Grid paid for the existing chargers in 2019.

Idea about a solar panel/heat pump/weatherization survey?

Announcements

Jack will remain on the Committee for a three-year term. Sean will be resigning from the committee on July 1 but will remain available to assist. We will be adjusting the committee size from 9 to 7 to make it easier to make quorum.

July 2025 Meeting Date

We have scheduled our next meeting for either July 9 or July 16, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.30.