

COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2016

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at 7:30 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. Present were Committee members Jill Appel, Gordon Brockway, Sue Felshin (clerk), Brad Hubbard-Nelson, and Alan Whitney (chair); Gilda Gussin, Bill Lehr, and Annie Moore were absent. Also present were Jan Aceti (CMLP Energy Conservation Coordinator) and Pamela Cady (Concord/Carlisle Energy Manager).

Upcoming Committee meetings

According to regular scheduling, the next meeting is planned to take place on April 12.

Review of CSEC-positions on energy-related Town Meeting warrant articles

It was noted that the petitioner of Article 44 (time-of-use rates) has decided not to move the article, and the petitioners of Article 46 (net-zero goal) are also expected not to move their article. The Committee agreed by consensus to remove mention of these articles from the Committee's drafted statement of positions on warrant articles (see List of Attachments), and to include a brief version of the Committee's charge and the Town's Sustainability Principles in document.

Discussion of Articles 15 and 16 included: The Committee should not involve itself in a political issue. A bus depot located closer to use of buses saves energy and money. Questions of cost are not part of the Committee's purview. Any decrease in travel distance will save energy; however, the energy savings of a depot in vs. outside of Concord (Article 15) are much more significant than the savings of a depot on the edge of Concord vs. closer to the high school (Article 16). The Committee's supportive reasoning could be "CSEC reminds Town Meeting that keeping buses in town should be an important consideration in all decision-making to reduce travel distance and resulting CO₂ emissions and to implement the Town's Sustainability Principles."

Ms. Felshin moved that the Committee recommend affirmative action on Article 15, School Transportation Facility – Supplemental Appropriation, with the reasoning suggested during discussion. Mr. Hubbard-Nelson seconded. All **VOTED** in favor.

The Committee discussed Article 45, Bylaw Prohibiting Polystyrene in Food Service Ware, for which the Committee voted a recommendation of affirmative action at the meeting of March 8. Discussion included: The Committee's position statement should include language on ocean pollution. Some CSEC members stated that pollution is not a matter of sustainable energy. Other members noted that it takes energy to clean up pollution or mitigate its effect, both on land and in sea. Polystyrene is recyclable, so the Committee's position statement shouldn't say it isn't. Polystyrene isn't recyclable through curbside recycling and only some forms of polystyrene are accepted at the Drop Off / Swap Off. Recycling of polystyrene is not as efficient or effective as for some other forms of plastic. A position statement that covers the details of polystyrene recycling would be long and confusing. The Committee agreed by consensus to let the current position statement stand, on the grounds that "is not recyclable" should be understood as "is not recyclable" at curbside, nor in a practical manner, etc. The Committee agreed to add "contributes to the accumulation of plastic waste and persistent environmental degradation" to the position statement.

It was noted that the Committee should follow up with the Town Moderator to confirm that the position statement conforms to requirements for Town Meeting. The Committee agreed to ask the Town Moderator to verbally note the Committee's support for affirmative action on articles at appropriate times as determined by the Town Moderator, and to note to the Town Moderator that the Committee would like the Town Moderator to include or omit reading the full position statements at his discretion.

Choice of project for Green Communities grant application and Update on Town energy staffing

Ms. Aceti circulated a memo and chart in advance of the meeting (see List of Attachments). Ms. Cady provided a handout with an updated chart (see List of Attachments). Ms. Aceti reported that the Ripley boiler replacement project has been postponed by a year, and she therefore suggests that the Committee approve her proposal for LED lighting projects for the schools, libraries, and wastewater treatment plant for the Green Communities application. Ms. Aceti noted that it is unclear whether the proposed new energy staff position, to be split between the Town and the Light Plant, will cover Green Communities for the schools, and that Ms. Cady has therefore included \$25,000 in the proposal to fund Ms. Cady to perform administrative work for the schools' Green Communities activities.

Ms. Cady noted that the Town's previous Green Communities competitive grant applications did not include administrative costs and it is unclear whether they will be approved. Green Communities competitive grant applications are limited to a maximum of \$250,000, so the proposal cannot be submitted at \$275,000 to cover the additional lighting work if administrative costs are approved. However, the proposal includes some lighting work to be funded by the Sawyer Trust Fund and the Light Plant, and if administrative costs are approved for Green Communities, then the expenditure from the Sawyer Trust Fund and/or Light Plant can be reduced.

Ms. Aceti was thanked for proactively developing lighting proposals and offering an alternative to the Ripley boiler proposal on short notice. Discussion included: Ms. Cady should continue as a Town employee. Ms. Aceti's fine work in bringing the Library Corporation on board has provided a good opportunity for the Library Corporation to participate in the Town's sustainability efforts. The Library Corporation deserves recognition for its efforts.

Ms. Felshin moved that the Committee approve the inclusion of the proposed projects highlighted in the Green Communities competitive grant application as contained in the document "2016 Potential Green Communities Projects.pdf", totaling \$250,000. Mr. Brockway seconded. All **VOTED** in favor.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Felshin, clerk

List of Attachments

1. 2016.03.21 CSEC warrant article positions (v2_sf_aw).docx
2. Wastewater Treatment Plant Lighting Upgrade.pdf
3. 2016 Potential GC Projects - Concord-1 (ja).xls
4. 2016 Potential Green Communities Projects.pdf
5. 2016.03.21 CSEC choices to be made-(v2).docx

http://www.concordma.gov/pages/ConcordMA_CSE/Meeting%20Support%20Materials/March%2022,%202016%20CSEC%20meeting/