

Concord Energy Future Task Force
June 2, 2016
7:30 AM
Police Department Training Room

Meeting Minutes – Approved 6.16.16

Attendees: Pam Hill, John Dalton, Brian Foulds, Dan Gainsboro, Wally Johnston, Elise Woodward

Liaisons: Michael Lawson, Select Board; Laura Scott, CMLP; Brad Hubbard-Nelson, CSEC; Mark Howell, CIO; Bob Grom, School Committee; Bouzha Cookman, MOF; William Lehr, CSEC

Pam Hill called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM and announced the meeting is being recorded by Laura Scott.

Approval of Minutes - Dan moved to accept the minutes of May 19, 2016 as amended. Brian seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Elise will submit approved minutes to Ruth Lauer for posting.

Correspondence – The Chair acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Fran Cummings and the draft RFP for Strategic Planning from CMLP structured to begin in October.

Discussion followed regarding the EFTF's interest in gathering information from proposals to this RFP; timing of the proposal; suggestions on content that EFTF may wish to suggest; economies of gathering information from the respondents; public process for input from stakeholders; what CMLP may view as overlap with EFTF. It was pointed out by Mark Howell, who has worked to develop the RFP for CMLP with Laura Scott, Dave Wood and Jan Aceti, that there are few strategic resources to identify other MUNI's who have successfully implemented strategic initiatives. This RFP is designed to help CMLP establish goals, potential strategic initiatives and tactics in their evolving business. Dan noted that he and John have met once with CMLP and will be following up with them. Pam requested that Dan and John recommend action by the EFTF relative to the RFP and perhaps invite Dave Wood to meet with EFTF for direct CMLP input.

Brian noted the recent action of the SJC requiring Massachusetts to comply with setting annual standards for greenhouse gas reductions. A question was raised about the current actions and results Concord experiences in reducing emissions as required by the Green Communities Act.

Legislation, regulation, and other court rulings may have a positive impact on Concord's effectiveness in reducing emissions or may hinder the Town's capabilities. Investigating this should be part of the EFTF's work.

Chair's Report – The Chair presented a proposal for the “elevator speech” to succinctly summarize the Task Force’s charge. The committee acknowledged the usefulness of this and suggested the summary is still too lengthy. It was suggested that the Chair submit this summary as a Letter to the Editor with a notice of the June 22 date for the Public Meeting when input from the community will be collected.

The Chair requested each committee member to prepare a one minute “elevator speech” for presentation at the next meeting in preparation for the Public Meeting. Discussion followed regarding ideas for structuring the Public Meeting. The final framework will be discussed at the next meeting and it was agreed that one component of the Public Meeting will be to describe what we will be doing and when during the coming six months.

Reports from Task Force Members

1. Emissions Inventory: Brian and John

MA Energy website noted as location for data from investor owned utilities
CMLP also provides access to data, but oil and propane use must be manually entered.

The first point of data collection will focus on fuels consumed as direct burning of carbon vs. embedded energy. Discussion followed: embedded energy is important to try to quantify, state assumptions about data to assist in quantifying accuracy; fuel use is common to each sector; focus on what can be clearly quantified; determine where legislation and regulatory requirements help us and where do they hold us back.

2. Stakeholders: Wally and Pam

This category may include carbon emissions for Residential, Municipal, Business, Schools, Transportation, Building sectors.

Committee members should give some thought to how best to engage stakeholders. A questionnaire may be used to collect information from some groups. Several groups were mentioned: police, fire, public works, COA, churches, schools, business / commercial, residents, agriculture, Emerson Hospital.

3. Best Practices by Others / Other ideas: Elise and Dan

The focus will be on what has worked and why. Topics to pursue include legislation and regulation—that in effect and proposed in this session legislature; grants, funding sources for short-term initiatives such as electric buses; CA Title 24 Net Zero Energy legislation; Cambridge Plan for Net Zero Communities; Burlington, VT; Philadelphia; CT; Chicago; Austin, TX

4. Government: Pam and Wally will be identifying the elements of Town government that assist in energy reduction: Governmental structures, Town Charter, MA General Court, Building Codes, Energy Regulations. The committee agreed that it may consider making recommendations for statutory change. It may be useful to meet with the Select Board to discuss this. Planning and

Zoning regulations as well as the Building Code influence embedded energy uses.

5. CMLP: Dan and John reported earlier in the meeting on their meeting with CMLP and the RFP. A comparison with investor owned utilities and CMLP's service model may be useful. 37 people work to maintain the services provided by CMLP.

Summer Intern

Consideration is being given of advertising for a summer intern to assist the Task Force. The draft RFP is written for college students. The Task Force would like HS students to be considered also.

Next Meeting: June 16, 2016 at 7:30 AM in the Police Department Training Room. June 22 is the date for a Public Meeting for the EFTF to collect input from citizens. It will be held in the HWCC multi-purpose room.

The next meeting's agenda will include presentations of the "elevator speeches", discussion of CMLP's RFP, discussion of an action plan for engaging stakeholders, and proposed methodology for emissions inventory and best practices.

Citizen Comments

Consider Rocky Mountain Institute and Ft. Collins, CO also. Identifying Technology Trends is important also.

CSEC is planning a Sustainability Fair in February 2017.

Natural gas emissions are released from gas fields. When considering data for potential effect, use a shorter time frame such as 20 years vs. 100 years.

Consider emissions that go into the production of fuel.

Other resources: Concord's 2011 Green House Gas Emissions study; MA Energy Insight; Baseline calculations for Net Zero Energy.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Elise Woodward, Clerk.