

# COMPREHENSIVE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2016

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center. Present were Committee members Jill Appel, Bruce Blumberg, Sue Felshin, Gilda Gussin, Brad Hubbard-Nelson (chair), Annie Moore, and Alan Whitney; absent was Bill Lehr (clerk). Also present were Jan Aceti (CMLP Energy Conservation Coordinator), and members of the public Brian Foulds, Bob Grom, and Janet Miller.

## **Welcome visitors**

Mr. Hubbard-Nelson welcomed members of the public. Janet Miller of 1647 Main St. has submitted a green card for committees including CSEC.

## **Minutes**

Ms. Felshin moved to approve the minutes of July 19, as amended. Mr. Blumberg seconded. All **VOTED** in favor.

## **Next meetings**

According to regular scheduling, the next meetings will be held on Sept. 13 and Oct. 11. Because of conflicts with holidays and other conflicts, the Chair will conduct a Doodle poll to find better dates.

## **Cooler Concord Fair planning**

### **a. Summary of meetings and decisions made, status of volunteers**

Ms. Appel reported that the core Fair planning group of herself, Ms. Gussin, and Mr. Hubbard-Nelson will meet will be held with CCHS personnel in September regarding using the school for the Fair, and is continuing to meet with Harry Bartlett regarding building a website to accompany the Fair and continue on after the Fair. A goal is for the Fair to serve as the kickoff of a longer project. The website should be populated with information in Dec./Jan., and the information should be simple and clear without burying people in information.

The Committee discussed deadlines and goalposts. One-page versions of Fair topics are needed as soon as possible.

### **b. Status of each area**

#### **1. Programmable Thermostats and Weatherization (Pamela Cady, presented by Jill Appel)**

[See List of Attachments.]

**Programmable thermostats:** Discussion included: The Fair should have a Mass Save vendor on site. Fleece vests may not be an ideal prize if it sends a message that people should expect to be uncomfortably cold. Vendors don't like to install programmable thermostats. Programmable thermostats can be purchased in Concord. Ms. Cady has noted that programmable thermostats are the least expensive way to save energy. The Fair is an opportunity to sign people up for installation or guide people to order online. People have programmable thermostats but haven't programmed them; the Fair is an opportunity to connect people with help with programming them.

**Weatherization:** Ms. Aceti noted that the Light Plant has a temperature gun and incense sticks available for loan to residents to detect drafts and heat loss, and that Energy New England can provide weatherization reviews although they are of limited value. Discussion of weatherization included: One local vendor (Air Sealing America) installs spray insulation. Some have raised questions about toxicity of spray foam, even when correctly installed.

## **2. Home Heating & Cooling (Brad Hubbard-Nelson)**

[See List of Attachments.]

Discussion included: Air source heat pumps aren't the best option for some residents, such as people with hydronic heat. Updating the furnace/boiler and insulating ducts are possible options.

## **3. Hot Water (Alan Whitney)**

Mr. Whitney handed out a table of options for heating [see List of Attachments]. He will update the table before the next meeting.

Discussion included: The numbers in the chart are surprising regarding which heating systems are most effective in price and energy usage. Solar thermal for hot water is too expensive to install; it's better to use solar for electricity.

## **4. Bicycle transportation (Janet Miller)**

Ms. Miller updated the Committee [see List of Attachments]: Children bicycling to school instead of going by car would have the biggest impact. The Town's recent distribution of free bicycles collected at the Drop Off / Swap Off was very successful and included information and training.

Discussion included: High school children would rather drive to school with friends than bicycle. Younger children won't bike to school unless their families are comfortable with it.

## **5. Transportation (Sue Felshin)**

[See List of Attachments.] Discussion included: The Chamber of Commerce gets calls asking about transit to Concord and how to get around in Concord after arriving by transit. What about an in-town bus/taxi service? Mr. Foulds was asked if he would take on the electric/hybrid car portion of the transportation category. He expressed an interest in meeting with Ms. Felshin, noted that his electric car event will be pushed off a little later into the fall, after Drive Electric Week, for logistical reasons.

### **c. Budget projection; d. Discussion: concerns, decision to proceed (or how to make); e. Action items for next meeting**

Due to press of time, rather than continuing with categories, the Committee agreed to review distributed documents and send comments directly to the person taking ownership of the category. Other points included: Each person should produce a one-pager summarizing their category. Where vendors are concerned, only one Committee member should contact the vendor, regardless of how many categories may be applicable, to reduce the burden on vendors.

### **Concord Energy Baseline progress**

Mr. Hubbard-Nelson noted that the Energy Futures Task Force wants to minimize energy use per capita. Since the 2011 energy baseline (available on the Committee webpage) was created, overall electricity use is down 1.5%; residential use is up 4%, commercial use down, and municipal use flat. Natural gas overall use is up 20%; municipal use is down 2% while commercial and residential use are up. Oil use is down. Shifting from oil to natural gas does not help carbon footprint due to the large amount of leakage of unburned methane. Overall footprint looks to be up slightly. Mr. Hubbard-Nelson hopes to finish the data gathering in September/October with the report due out in December. Discussion included: The role of the Committee is to reduce these numbers to the extent possible.

### **Heat Pump Program update**

Mr. Hubbard-Nelson reported that the heat pump interest group continues to meet, with the next meeting this coming Friday. The focus is currently on heat pump water heaters. An information session will be held through Concord Carlisle Community Education, to be broadcast later on CCTV and with material posted on the Web.

Discussion included: If the Committee is being asked to have its name associated with these activities, the Committee must have the opportunity to review materials in advance. The main focus at the moment is

getting people off of conventional electric water heaters and onto heat pump water heaters, and Committee support or sponsorship is not requested at the current time, but perhaps at a later time.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Felshin, Committee member

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**List of Attachments**

1. PStats & Weatherization8-5-16.docx
2. Home heating and cooling 8-03-16.docx
3. Water-heating costs table & CO2 emissions for typical family of four
4. Transportation Description\_Bicycling\_8-8-16.docx
5. LED Lighting Category Description 8-5-16.docx
6. sustainable yards8-6-16bb.docx