

DRAFT Meeting Minutes Green Energy Committee

8am on Thursday, January 14, 2021

**Virtual Meeting Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020
Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law**

Member Attendees: Paul Shorb, Ann Risso, Ed Kern, C.J. Volpone, Sue Klem (phone)

Members absent: Ed Lang, Jim Hutchinson, Jonathan Soo

Guest/Liaison Attendees: Jennifer Glass (BOS), Trisha O'Hagan, Ron Harvey, Alex Chatfield, Diana Jong (PTO Green Captain), Belinda Gingrich

Paul Shorb opened the meeting inquiring about the authorized number of committee members, believed to be nine, but now lacking one member following the resignation of Peter Watkinson. Paul will inquire of the Town Clerk and report to the committee. A quorum was declared.

Minutes from November 6, 2020 and December 17, 2020 meetings were distributed shortly prior to this meeting. Approval was deferred until the next meeting to give members additional time for review.

Future meeting dates will be 8 AM to 9:30 AM on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings will be held virtually at <https://zoom.us/j/94235388880?pwd=bkFNN0hY2NMRllldnlWdHNzMVFIQT09> until announced otherwise.

Legislative update

Paul reported the [Next-Gen Roadmap for Climate Policy](#) bill approved recently by both houses of the MA legislature will likely be pocket vetoed by Governor Baker. However, legislative leaders have said if he does, they will reintroduce it in the next legislative session, when they will be able to override a veto. Paul thanked everyone who took the time to call or write Baker; that show of voter support will help encourage the legislature. (Post-meeting note: Baker did subsequently let his pocket veto take effect.)

Lincoln Green Energy Choice program

C.J. Volpone led a discussion of the rollout of the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program, beginning with an appreciation for all member contributions and comments on numerous outreach communications that are now being released within the Town. Communications announcing & describing that program include:

- Town-wide "Coming Soon" postcard from Lincoln Green Energy Choice program: Already mailed first week in January
- Town Manager Higgins letter, which was approved by the State DPU, outlining the program and the option to remain with Eversource Basic Service: Mailed 1/14/21 to Eversource Basic Supply customers
- Town-wide BOS newsletter: Online now, with hard copies arriving via mail by this weekend
- A brochure approved by the State DPU: C.J. expects to receive an electronic copy soon
- Press release approved by the State DPU: Sent yesterday to *Concord Journal* (shortened to fit that publication's word limit); will also post it to the [Town website](#), the [GEC website](#), and the [Lincoln Green Energy Choice website](#) built for us by Peregrine.
- Updates to the LincolnGreenEnergyChoice.com website representing this Committee's position and recommendations
- C.J. expects to be interviewed by Alice Waugh for an article in the *Lincoln Squirrel*

C.J. said he will send all of the above to the rest of the GEC. He noted that the DPU rejected many of our suggested edits to draft materials, and that in the DPU-approved text the three options in our program are called "100% Green", "Standard Green", and "Basic". We are now stuck with that nomenclature, but don't see any major problem with it.

Also, the following Zoom meetings have been scheduled, to explain the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program, with Q&A:

- Town of Lincoln sponsored Thursday 1/21/2021 at 7:30 PM
- Town of Lincoln sponsored Thursday 2/4/2021 at 1 PM
- First Parish in Lincoln “Opt Up Sunday” 2/7/2021 at 4 PM
- Lincoln Council on Aging Monday 2/8/2021 at 12 Noon

C.J. confirmed that the GEC and other groups remain free to create additional, different communications about the program, such as to encourage people to opt up to 100% Green, but all such communications must avoid making overly certain predictions about cost savings.

Paul suggested that the GEC have three goals in mind, in creating such communications - that we want people to encourage people to

- 1) not drop out of the program;
- 2) opt up to 100% Green; and
- 3) if they currently use another supplier program that isn't 100% Class I renewables, switch into the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program.

Sue said that she and Lynne Smith are working on text that could be sent to Lincoln Talk and to other groups, which they hope to draft this weekend and then circulate to the GEC for comment. It will mention the Zoom meetings and urge opting up to 100%. The group discussed several aspects of how to make such additional communication effective, including keeping it simple; using the pie chart to show the role of electricity in our carbon footprint; and emphasizing a communal spirit, that “we are all in this together”. Sue also noted that the [Lincoln Green Energy Choice website](#) built for us by Peregrine needs to be updated and supplemented in various ways and asked that GEC members review it to make suggestions.

The GEC voted unanimously to authorize the GEC Communications Subcommittee to finalize such text, as well as any text for the Zoom presentations and any changes to the websites regarding the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program. To that end, Sue Klem will circulate drafts to the GEC for comment. GEC members should also send her any suggestions for the program website. To comply with MA open meeting laws, GEC members should reply directly only to Sue. Sue will either (A) resolve wording issues based on that delegated authority or (B) if she deems necessary, will suggest that the GEC schedule a meeting (with public notice) to resolve any weighty issues. She will similarly assemble recommended changes to the [Lincoln Green Energy Choice website](#) , which Paul or CJ will forward to Peregrine.

Other business

Roy Harvey provided an update on his research into EV charging stations for Lincoln. There are several places in town that might be appropriate for installing them, for use by Town vehicles (which we hope to migrate to EV in the future) and/or the public (e.g., at the train station, the Lincoln School campus, Lincoln Woods, and condos that lack private garages). The state has several different funding sources that can help pay for these. Roy noted that implementing such projects would require some involvement by Town staff. Paul asked and Roy agreed to come up with a strawman plan/vision for charging station locations/target users, as a basis for further GEC discussion.

Jennifer Glass suggested we be on the lookout for other grant opportunities.

Discussion of other Committee initiatives will continue at our next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 11 at 8 AM

Submitted by Ed Kern