

**Minutes of Virtual Meeting of  
Community Choice Aggregation Subcommittee  
of the Green Energy Committee  
7:30 am on Thursday, February 4, 2021  
Virtual Meeting Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order  
Suspending Certain Provisions of Open Meeting Law.  
Zoom Meeting ID# 942 3538 8880**

**Members Present:** Paul Shorb, Chair; Ed Kern; Sue Klem; Ann Risso; C.J. Volpone.

**Others Present:** Jennifer Glass, BOS liaison; Dan Pereira, Assistant Town Administrator; Tom Walker.

**AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

How to advise those already signed up with Green Energy Consumers Alliance

After discussion, we seemed to reach a consensus that the GEC does not have a reason to strongly encourage people who are already signed up with GECA for 100% renewable energy to switch to the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program. However, we should write up an explanation of the differences between those two programs for the FAQ for the Lincoln Green Energy Choice website.

Some related points that were raised include:

- GECA 100% renewables program is based on GECA buying and retiring Class I RECs. In that respect, GECA mitigates climate change the same way that the Lincoln Green Energy Choice program does. (Although our program contracts with generators of Class 1 renewable energy, it does so by buying the RECs they generate, not the electrons they generate. Our program still gets its electrons from the full mix of sources that flow into the New England grid.)
- GECA charges its subscribers a bit more for its RECs than it pays for them. That helps GECA provide other environmental benefits.
- Payments to the GECA program are tax-deductible as charitable contributions (GECA is a 501(c)(3)). How much financial benefit if any a GEC subscriber gets depends on their tax status (e.g., some can't get a tax benefit from itemizing deductions).
- Payments to our program (even when opting up to 100% renewables) are not tax deductible.
- Assuming no tax benefits, our program costs less to get 100% renewables than the GECA program does. We haven't calculated the comparison with full tax benefits, but Tom guesses Lincoln's 100% Green may still come out cheaper.
- The more people in our program, the better for Peregrine, whose compensation is based on participation. However, CJ says that Peregrine has already conservatively budgeted a 10% dropout rate, and he doesn't think they need us to push GECA subscribers into our program.
- The higher the number of Lincoln residents that we can say have signed up, the better we could (A) encourage additional sign-ups, (B) set a good example to inspire other towns, and (C) send a signal to our policymakers at the state government level. So people staying in the GECA program detract from that number. However, we can get from GECA the number of its 100% subscribers in Lincoln, and combine that with our program sign-ups for the three signaling purposes above.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Paul volunteered to do a first draft and circulate to the GEC for review and comment (also seeking fact-checking review if necessary from GECA).
- On behalf of First Parish, Tom Walker will ask GECA to create a letter similar to the one GECA recently sent to Boston subscribers, explaining options when Community Choice Aggregation becomes available, to send at least to those recruited to GECA by First Parish. GECA is of course free to send the same letter to all GECA subscribers in Lincoln.

### Other communication issues

Sue believes that Peregrine has not yet updated the website with all the changes we have requested. Paul and Sue will meet separately to discuss and Paul will follow up with Peregrine as necessary.

Sue noted that a recent mass-mailing from Clean Choice Power asserts that Massachusetts residents who subscribe will get RECs from NY and New England. However, it doesn't specify Class 1 RECs. If we write a FAQ specific to Clean Choice Power, we should check the facts on this point.

Ed said that about 400 meters in Lincoln are connected to a third-party supplier (this includes Town buildings). He noted that the Town's electrical supply contract, through the entity Power Options, has long included purchasing Texas wind RECs; he suggested we explore getting the Town to switch to MA Class 1 RECs..

Ann suggested that, to the extent feasible, we should encourage those on Lincoln Talk with questions to consult the GEC FAQ (and update as necessary), to avoid confusing our message with back-and-forth debate. Paul suggested that we could continue to leave that to the discretion of Sue and CJ, who are covering LT responses on regarding the Lincoln Green Energy Choice on behalf of the GEC. Ann agreed. If we convert those LT responses to FAQs for our website, that may gradually reduce the burden of responding to LT questions, as we stop seeing questions that have not already been addressed once and we can borrow from the FAQ set to respond to repeat questions.

### ACTION ITEM:

- Paul volunteered to draft additional FAQs for the Lincoln Green Energy Choice website, based in part on the LT responses that CJ has posted.

ADJOURNED at 8:45 a.m.

Submitted by Paul Shorb