

Green Energy Committee (GEC)
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022, 8am

Remote Participation Protocols:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the www.lincolntown.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen or watch the meeting may do so in the following manner:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94235388880?pwd=bkFNN0hIY2NMRllldnlWdHNzMVFIQT09>

Meeting ID: 942 3538 8880 **Password:** 460113 **Dial by your location:** 646- 876- 9923

No in-person attendance by members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Town's website as soon as possible after the meeting.

Members Present: Roy Harvey, Jim Hutchinson, Ed Kern, Sue Klem, Ed Lang, Paul Shorb (chair).

Others Present: Alex Chatfield, Belinda Gingrich, Jennifer Glass (Select Board liaison), Audrey Kalmus (Chair of Capital Committee), Emily Haslett, Staci Montori, Michael Moodie, Chuck Sizer, Collette Sizer, Lynne Smith.

Call to Order, Review and Approve Minutes

Paul Shorb called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

- Shorb asked for comments on accuracy of edits that had been suggested since the draft minutes were last circulated to the Committee. A few edits were made.
- Jim Hutchinson moved that the 1/13/22 minutes be approved. Ed Kern seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.
 - Harvey - aye
 - Hutchinson - aye
 - Kern - aye
 - Klem - aye
 - Lang - aye
 - Shorb - aye

Capital Planning Committee request for GEC input

Audrey Kalmus joined the meeting to ask for GEC input on certain types of capital expenditures.

- She explained that CapCom is tasked with making expenditure decisions that sometimes require knowledge of green energy options and/or government incentives, e.g., police cruisers, lighting systems, and alarm systems. She asked if GEC could provide expertise.
- She suggested that CapCom could send a list of planning items for the next 5 years, and GEC might provide feedback on low energy options and/or incentives. CapCom is looking for background research and would not require that the person(s) attend their meetings.
- Planning season is April/May. When the planning is completed, the plan will be sent to GEC. She advised the group to focus on the expenditures for next year.
- The committee agreed to provide support for CapCom.

Language for Warrant Article (restricting gas hookups for new construction)

Shorb brought the warrant article approval up for discussion. A draft had been circulated for review. Final language for the warrant article is due February 21.

- Jim Hutchinson noted recent posts in Lincoln Talk which suggested some people desire to have gas back-up for heat pumps in cold weather and asked whether that is needed. The group discussion did not resolve that question.
- He also felt that some consideration should be given to whether or not heat pumps are more expensive to install or operate, particularly in very cold weather, and wondered if homeowners may want backup systems to assure that their water pipes won't freeze. Others said that "too cold" shouldn't be a problem for heat pumps in new construction, but the group discussion did not resolve the question of cold-weather reliability.
- He suggested that without good answers to these questions, Town Meeting may not vote for restricting gas hook-ups and suggested GEC might be putting this article forward too soon.
- The group was reminded that the restriction is only for new construction and possibly "gut" renovations.
- Alex Chatfield encouraged the group to move forward with the warrant article and be prepared for a discussion when objections are raised. He reminded the group that other towns were able to pass similar warrant articles.
- Shorb suggested that the waiver process authorized by the draft bylaw (copied from Lexington and Acton) might be a sufficient safety valve, if it turns out heat pumps alone do have technical limitations. Sue Klem noted that the warrant article might have a better chance of approval next year following a year of public education through the process of developing the Climate Action Plan. Shorb agreed that this Town Meeting could vote only on the broad Home Rule request and postpone a vote until subsequent Town Meeting on the by-law specifics, but he would prefer to do it all this year if possible.
- The committee agreed to meet again Wednesday, February 16 at 9:30 a.m., to try to come to conceptual agreement and vote.
 - **Action item:** Roy Harvey and Michael Moodie to provide more information for the discussion on Feb. 16, especially re cost and reliability.

Climate Action Planning group - new name proposal

Sue Klem asked for initial reactions to a new name for this subcommittee of the GEC, most recently named the Climate Action Planning Subcommittee. She finds that name awkwardly and does not want it to be known by its acronym. The committee would like to try using Climate Action Lincoln.

- Some GEC members felt the name was confusing because it does not describe what the subcommittee does (i.e., coordinate a Town-wide planning process) and instead implies that this group will be executing the Climate Action Plan.
- Roy Harvey suggested that the group be called Planning for Climate Action.
- Lynne Smith encouraged using a unique email address to accept public input related to the Climate Action Planning process, such as climateaction@lincolntown.org, and finalizing that very soon.
 - **Action item:** Klem to discuss these initial reactions with the Climate Action Planning group and return to the GEC with a proposal when ready.

Jim Hutchinson moved that the meeting adjourn, and Paul Shorb seconded. Adjournment was approved.

- Harvey – aye
- Hutchinson - absent
- Kern - aye
- Klem - aye
- Lang - aye
- Shorb - aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

The next meeting will be February 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Collette Sizer, Minute-Taker
2/11/2022