

Meeting Minutes Green Energy Committee

8am on Thursday, February 11, 2021

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

Member Attendees: Jim Hutchinson, Ed Kern, Sue Klem Ed Lang, Ann Risso, Paul Shorb (Chair), C.J. Volpone

Members absent: Jonathan Soo

Guest/Liaison Attendees: Jennifer Glass (BOS), Belinda Gingrich, Roy Harvey, Diana Jong (PTO Green Captain), Audrey Kalmus

1. Minutes from the following meetings were approved
 - 11/6/2020 meeting of the GEC-CCA Subcommittee
 - 12/17/2020 meeting of the GEC
 - 1/14/2021 meeting of the GEC
 - 2/4/2021 meeting of the GEC-CCA Subcommittee

2. State legislation update

Paul reported that Governor Baker has sent the legislature a package of proposed amendments to the major climate bill that the legislature passed in early January. Climate activists view the changes to the “environmental justice” sections as good; many small technical changes as OK; and at least three major changes to be problematic. Ball is now in the legislature’s court to pass a bill with or without the proposed changes, which the Governor will have to either accept or oppose.

3. Consider signing onto MAPC comment letter re State’s [Draft Interim Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030](#)

We passed over this matter for now.

4. Net zero planning for Lincoln

Paul asked if the Town already has established any goal or schedule for reaching “net zero” greenhouse gas emissions. Jennifer recalled that Alex MacLean got a citizen petition passed at a Town Meeting that required town boards to think about climate change before taking action, and that the Town has a rule that any new Town buildings must be net zero by 2030.

Paul asked, what if anything should the GEC do to help the Town get to a plan to reach net zero? Sue reported that she and other volunteers are at the early stages of getting something going on that. Roy Harvey volunteered to help and suggested asking our state legislators if there are any resources available to help with that. Sue invited suggestions from anyone with ideas. Jennifer suggested seeking more information from Julie Curtis at MAPC and the MAGIC rep.

5. Lincoln Green Energy Choice program rollout

Various participants reported on work done to help publicize the rollout and encourage people to “opt up”. CJ believes we have now completed all the tasks we promised the state in terms of publicizing the rollout, including over 2,100 mailings (except for the flyer, not yet printed). We must eventually provide evidence of all these to Peregrine.

Ed Kern reported that so far 150 people have opted out, 83 have opted down, and 61 have opted up. A few people who were not Eversource basic customers have opted into the program, 2 choosing Standard Green, 2 choosing Basic, and 9 choosing 100% Green. So, we now have about 1800 households set to get 27% more clean renewable energy (via Class 1 RECs) than would be the case without this program.

CJ reported that the rate of related questions and debate on Lincoln Talk is starting to die down.

Tasks left to do include:

- Finalize and print brochure
- Touch-ups to the website (including posting recording of Zoom meeting)
- Promote through the Lincoln Democratic Town Committee
- The CCA Subcommittee will meet next Thursday

6. Identify ongoing and potential projects for GEC to pursue

EVs:

Roy Harvey reported that he made a presentation last night to the School Building Committee (“SBC”) re the possibility of installing EV charging stations in connection with the school building construction. The SBC expressed interest and asked him to keep researching that. Eversource would do its own trenching and install buried conduit, as a project separate from the school building project, but

there is a complication as to the timing of the two parallel projects. Roy will talk to Buck Creel to explore coordinating the timing.

Audrey suggested the Mall would be a good place to install one or two EV charging stations (for Lincoln Woods, train commuters, etc.)

School building update:

Jim reported that the Power Purchase Agreement (“PPA”) subcommittee (which also includes Ed Kern) is still working on the PPA. Completing the negotiations with Eversource will take another year or two. Buck Creel has the lead.

Ed Lang noted that he is tracking energy efficiency efforts at the school. For example, he will stay engaged in connection with the programming of air handling units,

Transportation issues:

We noted that things the GEC could work on include (1) encouraging residents to buy EVs (2) getting EV charging stations installed (3) pushing the Town to electrify its fleet of vehicles and (4) getting funding for the above.

Solar installation on landfill:

Ed Kern notes that when this idea was floated in the past, it was stalled because of the National Park Service opposed the necessary connection to Route 2A across NPS land there. Tim Higgins is interested in revisiting this issue after Town Meeting 2021.

IECC:

Ed Lang noted that he has filed the same names of GEC members, to keep us registered as Town representatives allowed to vote on future changes to the International Energy Conservation Code.

SLPC:

Ed Land confirmed that he will represent the GEC in connection with the South Lincoln Planning and Advisory Committee (“SLPAC”).

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 AM

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 11 at 8 AM

Submitted by Paul Shorb