

**Meeting Minutes
Green Energy Committee
8:00 am on Thursday, February 12, 2026**

Virtual Meeting Pursuant to Senate Bill #2985, Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Present: GEC members Lauriw Gray, Roy Harvey, Ed Kern, Ed Lang, Scott Rodman, Paul Shorb (chair), Anne Sobol, Lara Sullivan; Select Board Liaison Jennifer Glass; guest Belinda Gingrich.

- Review draft Jan. 8 minutes

The minutes were approved by vote:

| Gray | Harvey | Kern | Klem | Lang | Rodman | Shorb | Sobol | Sullivan |
|--------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|----------|
| absent | y | y | absent | y | y | y | y | y |

- Should the GEC submit comments to the ICC regarding embodied carbon?
 - MCAN sent an email encouraging this. However, Lang said that ICC changed its rules so that representatives of municipalities no longer have official standing to vote. The GEC nevertheless could submit comments and/or GEC members could do so as individuals, but Lang doesn't plan to, because he doesn't think such comments would get weight.
 - We agreed not to comment and that we need not renew the annual dues payment to ICC (\$410).
- Should the GEC take a position re the Dark Skies proposal?
 - Harvey is a member of the Dark Skies subcommittee of the Planning Board. He explained that it has developed proposed limits (lumens and color) for new lighting fixtures outside of buildings, with the goals to reduce sky glow, wildlife impacts, and neighbor impacts. It would be a zoning bylaw, so the Planning Board will hold a public meeting, before the vote at Town meeting.
 - Harvey noted that the energy savings would be so small that he doesn't see a reason for the GEC to comment.
- Update on Library HVAC project; should the GEC take a position?
 - Shorb reported that the warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting tees up votes on two budget articles: one for installing a ground-source heat pump system and one to install a gas-burning system instead, if the expected government grants for the GSHP system are not obtained. (Each alternative will include extensive other HVAC updates, so will be comparable in system completeness and longevity.)
 - Kern and Shorb noted that the GEC played a pivotal role in this process by (1) critiquing the original gas boiler replacement proposal and (2) getting funding for the expert assistance being provided by our "Municipal Energy manager", Power Options. However, now Dan Pereira is coordinating the process of getting the Town to a decision; the GEC is not responsible for this process.
 - Some GEC members raised questions about the cost analysis and the difference in impact on global warming emissions. The GEC can decide at its March meeting if it wants to take some public position.

- **Action item: Shorb ask Power Options for quantitative estimates of global warming emissions from the two alternate scenarios.**
- Update on Municipal Energy Manager activities
 - Shorb reported that Power Options (“PO”) had drafted a slide deck that could be used to provide an update to various potential audiences regarding the Municipal Energy Manager activities on behalf of Lincoln. A link to the current draft is [here](#). It could be modified into different versions for different audiences and updated over time and could also be posted on our website. The GEC did not identify any particular audience or event to aim for.
 - **Action items - Shorb:**
 - **work with PO to finalize an initial version of the slide deck.**
 - **ensure that PO meeting notices go to all GEC members. Include updates on each GEC agenda**
 - **investigate how Town and/or GEC can retain key PO docs.** (See also notes herein about GEC document repository.)
- Update re Bemis Hall boiler failure
 - Gray notes that a boiler at Bemis Hall has failed (several times since December) so the Town is replacing it on an emergency basis (for \$41K?) There may still be a second boiler for us to consider.
 - **Action item: Shorb advise Power Options, as potentially relevant to their schedule for building studies.**
- How to conveniently email all GEC members
 - Rodman reported that (1) Michael in IT has been unable to get GEC@lincolntown.org to consistently reach all GEC members and (2) using a Google Group is OK so long as Town’s records retention email is included.
 - **Action item: Shorb request that records retention email address from Michael. Also ensure that two people are able to access it the Google Group as managers.**
- Update regarding GEC document repository
 - Shorb reported that he and Sullivan have been organizing a Google Drive organized for this purpose, which is almost ready to share with all GEC members for use. All GEC members will have rights to upload documents to a folder that will be used as a temporary staging area / holding room, before a few authorized managers move them into appropriate folders.
- How to finalize GEC letter regarding so-called sustainable aviation fuels (“SAF”)
 - **Action item: Roy, Anne, and Paul will convene via Zoom at 3 pm on 2/23**
- Update regarding various GEC publicity efforts
 - Gray, Kern & Sullivan prepared an article comparing the latest Eversource pricing to our Lincoln Green Energy Choice program, which was published in “Select Connect” (the digital version that comes out the Wednesday after each Select Board meeting).
 - **Action item: Gray will get it published in the Squirrel and Lincoln Talk.**
 - Scott noted that Lincoln has a high adoption rate of EVs and suggested that CFREE write and publish an article about that.

- Harvest, Rodman, and Sullivan are preparing an educational poster about the solar array at the former landfill.
- **Action item: Rodman will set up a meeting to get a presentation from Mass Energize, for CFREE and any interested GEC members.**
- Update regarding batteries for Town Buildings
 - Rodman reported that a recent meeting with Totale (PPA partner for the school building solar array) led to understanding that the batteries saved the Town about \$53K last year, by reducing “demand charges” from Eversource. He said that the Water Dept building incurs demand charges of about \$50K/year per year.
 - PO recently helped the Town apply for state grants to fund studies of potential specifications for batteries at Town buildings and related cost issues.
 - Rodman proposes an awareness-building event. The battery studies mentioned above would provide a good foundation for that.
- Update regarding net metering
 - Rodman has been investigating issues around this, including the economic waste / inefficiencies that may be resulting from the lack of a convenient way for people who accumulate more credits than they need to transfer them to someone else. Linked [here](#) are notes (made by Shorb and edited by Rodman) made from a prior more detailed conversation about that.
- Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m. by vote:

| Gray | Harvey | Kern | Klem | Lang | Rodman | Shorb | Sobol | Sullivan |
|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|----------|
| y | y | y | absent | y | y | y | y | absent |

Remote Meeting Protocols: Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order, as extended on March 29, 2023, with the Governor’s signing of a supplemental budget bill suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §18, this meeting will be conducted in a virtual format. 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 Town of Lincoln website, at 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/97519483881?pwd=RDh9mYQvWLuX9iQwXqCbQnkHH6uvzt.1>

Meeting ID: 975 1948 3881

Passcode: GEC

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.