

Green Energy Committee (GEC)
DRAFT Meeting Notes
March 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, Paul Shorb (chair).

Others Present: Alex Chatfield, Belinda Gingrich, Jennifer Glass (Select Board liaison), Michael Moodie, Scott Rodman, Chuck Sizer, Collette Sizer.

Call to Order, Review and Approve Minutes

- Paul Shorb called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and took roll call.
- Shorb proposed that the two sets of February minutes be considered at the next meeting.

Restricting Gas Hookups for New Construction

- Shorb recommended that GEC modify the language in the proposed warrant article, to remove the specific bylaw language that would take effect upon legislative approval. Under this revised approach, if the legislature granted the home rule petition, a second town meeting would still be needed to pass a specific by-law restricting gas hook-ups in new construction. This revised approach aligns with feedback received earlier in the week from the Select Board and Planning Board, who felt the public might feel rushed to be asked to approve specific bylaw language at this Town Meeting.
- Shorb suggested that this revised approach would still be constructive in working towards three objectives:
 - Build awareness in Lincoln of what needs to be done to mitigate climate change
 - Send a message to the agency updating the stretch code (the Dept. or Energy Resources, or "DOER") that its recently released proposal regarding an opt-in stretch code should be improved by banning new gas hookups.
 - Send a signal to the State Legislature that it should authorize all towns restricting gas hook-ups in new construction (especially if DOER does not do so in the opt-in stretch code).
- Several participants at the meeting made suggestions regarding how to most clearly explain the above in the motion or in associated efforts to educate Lincoln voters. Shorb agreed to revise the preamble to clarify.
- Discussion clarified what the process would be:
 - GEC will vote today [March 10] on the revised version.
 - The preamble will be tweaked per discussion.
 - It will be passed to Tim Higgins for legal counsel review.
 - The Planning Board will meet before the Town Meeting and will review.
 - There will be public education, i.e. two zoom meetings prior to the Town Meeting.
 - The final motion language must be submitted by March 18
 - A copy of the warrant article and motion will also be placed on the GEC website, and links to same will be posted in Lincoln Talk and The Squirrel.
- Hutchinson moved that the Committee authorize Shorb to finalize the language in the motion, adding context to the preamble similar to the Arlington Preamble. Kern seconded the motion. Shorb took roll call. The motion was unanimously approved.

Harvey	aye
Hutchinson	aye
Kern	aye
Klem	aye
Shorb	aye

- *Action Item:* Shorb to finalize the language in the motion as discussed and send to Tim Higgins and the Planning Board for review.

Report from Climate Action Planning Group

- This GEC subcommittee now calls itself Climate Action Lincoln .
- Klem anticipates the subcommittee will receive the grant application next week. Jen Curtin will have eight weeks to complete it. MAPC, acting as a consultant, will help the subcommittee with the grant application. It must be done by mid-May.
 - Priority action items must be included. These items were agreed upon at Lincoln’s MVP Community Resilience Building Workshop in April 2019. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (“MVP”) plan communicates what the Town and its residents have decided.
 - Resilience and adaptation are a strong focus and as much as half of the plan must address these.
 - The committee is working on outreach to engage residents and get public feedback.
 - Klem will present for 2 minutes at the Town meeting on Lincoln’s efforts to develop a Climate Action Plan..
- Roy Harvey and Lynne Smith are working on 2030 climate action goals.

Comment Letter Regarding Net Zero Stretch Code

Shorb explained that the recent climate legislation requires the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to publish an opt-in net zero” stretch code by December. The State has released a proposal and is asking for comment by March 18. Shorb shared a comment letter that individuals can sign onto, including members of the committee and broader GEC audience, which calls on DOER to strengthen the proposal. A more detailed comment letter has been circulated by the MA Net Zero Buildings Coalition letter, which public officials (including GEC members) can sign. Shorb suggested that GEC members consider signing onto either or both as appropriate, but due to the late notice was not proposing that the GEC vote on signing onto the MA Net Zero Buildings Coalition letter.

GEC role regarding State policy

Shorb expressed his belief that the GEC should be willing to comment from time to time on matters of state policy, such as the net zero stretch code for example, but wanted to check the degree to which GEC members agreed with that.

- Hutchison agreed that GEC should consider statewide legislation.
- Kern expressed concern over the responsibility to understand the issue and the time commitment that involves.
- Shorb proposed that GEC be selective of issues it takes on.
- Klem agreed with support for the comment letters regarding the net zero stretch code, but also felt GEC should focus first on Town issues and be selective about State issues.
- Harvey pointed out that the building code issue is more than a state issue because the Town is asking the State to give us an opt-in code that the Town can live with.
- Rodman added that it is important for the legislature to hear as many as voices as possible from town groups.
- Shorb expressed his sense that the above discussion showed a consensus that it is appropriate for the GEC to consider State issues.

Updating the GEC’s Charge to the GEC

Shorb explained that since GEC last voted on language it would like to see for an updated “charge” to the GEC from the Select Board, Tim Higgins had sent him several examples of charges from other groups that were recently approved. These examples suggest that the GEC should include additional elements in its charge, including specifying how many members.

- Shorb proposed GEC have up to nine members.
- Klem agreed that nine provides flexibility and is an odd number.
- Jim Hutchinson thought it great to encourage people to participate in the process.

- Harvey suggested adding an expert on architecture and also transportation. He thought it wise to have someone who had done work with energy and emissions. If the committee is too big it can be hard to have a quorum.
- Klem added that GEC should have a vetting process for adding committee members.
- Shorb offered to draft a charge that is a little longer and explains what the committee does and why it is doing these things.
- *Action Item:* Shorb to draft a charge for GEC.

Report from Residential Working Group

Collette Sizer said RWG had done several events and had pulled together a subgroup focused on Deckhouse retrofit. She offered to provide a longer update at the next meeting. She noted that RWG would be wearing the green opt-up t-shirts at the Town Meeting. This generated some enthusiasm for green energy supporters to wear green on March 26.

Shorb moved that the meeting adjourn, and Harvey seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m

Harvey	aye
Hutchinson	aye
Kern	aye
Klem	aye
Shorb	aye

The next meeting will be April 14, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Collette Sizer, Minute-Taker
 3/13/2022