

Green Energy Committee (GEC)
Meeting Notes
April 14, 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, Sue Klem, Ed Lang, Paul Shorb (chair), CJ Volpone.

Others Present: Alex Chatfield, Belinda Gingrich, Jennifer Glass (Select Board liaison), Michael Moodie, Scott Rodman, Collette Sizer, Christopher Elliot, Trisha O'Hagan.

Call to Order, Review and Approve Minutes

- Paul Shorb called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and took roll call. Ed Kern was not present. Jim Hutchinson has resigned in light of his election to the Select Board. C.J. Volpone joined the meeting after the initial roll call.

- Roll Call:

Harvey	present
Klem	present
Lang	present
Shorb	present
Volpone	---

- Review and approve minutes of 2/16/22, 2/4/22, 3/10/22.
 - Shorb asked for edits or corrections to the minutes of the 2/16/22 meeting. There were none. Shorb moved that the minutes of the 2/16/22 meeting be approved. Sue Klem seconded the motion. Approved:

- Roll Call:

Harvey	aye
Klem	aye
Lang	aye
Shorb	aye
Volpone	aye

- Shorb asked for edits or corrections to the minutes of the 2/24/22 meeting. There were none. Shorb moved that the minutes of the 2/24/22 meeting be approved. Klem seconded the motion. Approved:.

- Roll Call:

Harvey	aye
Klem	aye
Lang	aye
Shorb	aye
Volpone	aye

- Shorb asked for edits or corrections to the minutes of the 3/10/22 meeting. Klem reviewed her proposed edits. Shorb moved that the minutes be approved as edited. Klem seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as edited.

- Roll Call:

Harvey	aye
Klem	aye
Lang	aye
Shorb	aye
Volpone	abstain

Other Business

- CJ Volpone noted that the Community Choice Aggregation program will expire in March.
 - **Action item:** Volpone will handle the administrative/reporting tasks required by the state in connection with the Community Choice Aggregation program.
- Jennifer Glass updated the Committee on her status. She will continue as the Select Board liaison to the GEC and Jim Hutchinson will serve as an alternate.
- Sue Klem noted that Hutchinson had been instrumental helping GEC take on projects. Shorb moved that GEC express their heartfelt appreciation for Hutchinson’s efforts on the committee. Roy Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Roll Call:

Harvey	aye
Klem	aye
Lang	aye
Shorb	aye
Volpone	aye

State Legislation report

- Shorb noted that the MA Senate will vote on climate legislation today (April 14). Under one amendment to be voted on, up to ten towns could be granted “home rule” authority to restrict fossil fuels in new construction, and this could include including Lincoln. The MA House has already passed a bill to promote the development of offshore wind and House leaders have said they plan to also pass a broader climate change bill, analogous to the Senate bill. The two bills would have to go to a conference committee to work out a compromise bill that then would have to be passed by both the House and Senate.
- Glass suggested that the legislature may not finalize anything until after the upcoming elections.

Restricting Gas Hookups for New Construction (follow up to Town Meeting)

- Shorb shared his opinion that the Town Meeting discussion and vote on the gas hookups warrant article last month succeeded in the way the GEC had hoped. I.e., it signaled to the State Dept. of Energy Resources (“DOER”) and the state legislature that some towns want a stronger “net zero stretch code” than DOER has proposed, so the state can start the necessary move away from heating with gas, and it helped educate the public about home electrification as a way to mitigate climate change,
- The group discussed whether to work towards getting a bylaw passed at the spring 2023 Town Meeting that would restrict gas hookups for new construction and possibly major modifications. The net zero stretch code is due to be published in final form by December and a complete draft should be released well before then, so one possibility would be to wait to see if the next draft is better, in which case the GEC’s focus might switch from getting a new bylaw passed to getting Town Meeting to adopt the new stretch code. However, similar public education is required in either case, so the consensus of the group seemed to be that we should get started, while being conscious of how such an effort would relate to the ongoing parallel process of developing Lincoln’s climate action plan.
- **Action Items:**
 - O’Hagan, Rodman, and Shorb will organize a public information session to share information and hear concerns related to Lincoln potentially adopting a net zero stretch code and/or a bylaw restricting new gas hookups at Town Meeting 2023. Architects and builders should be contacted to get their input.

- Any members who know names of people particularly concerned about the above should provide that info to the above outreach team.

Report from Climate Action Lincoln

- Jen Curtin, Assistant Director of Planning and Land Use, is capably preparing the application for the MVP grant that would pay for some consultant help for developing Lincoln’s climate action plan.
- The Climate Action Lincoln Subcommittee is seeking letters of support from town residents, boards and organizations by May 1, to bolster the MVP application that is due to be submitted by May 5. Klem suggested that the GEC submit a letter. The GEC discussed what should be included in such a letter.
 - Shorb moved that the GEVC authorize him to draft and submit a letter of support noting (1) GEC’s past role in climate action, with examples, and (2) the GEC’s expected role in leading the climate action planning process. Volpone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Roll Call:

Harvey	aye
Klem	aye
Lang	aye
Shorb	aye
Volpone	aye

- Shorb asked if there will be anything coming out of the climate action planning process to be voted on at the next Town Meeting. Klem suggested that the climate action planning process likely would not be complete by then, since it the consultant support phase will run from September 2022 through June 2023. Harvey suggested that even if so, some specific elements may ripen in time to vote on at the next Town Meeting.
- **Action Items:**
 - Paul (as GEC Chair) to draft and submit a letter in support of the Town’s application for the MVP grant.
 - The Climate Action Lincoln team to continue outreach through a Zoom meeting on April 21, tabling at Lincoln Station April 22, and tabling at the transfer station on April 30. (These events are intended to start a conversation with the community.)

Report from Committee For Residential Emissions Elimination (CFREE)

Collette Sizer reported on CFREE activities.

- CFREE is working on a mission and vision statement.
- Upcoming events include tabling on Earth Day, a Heat Pump Zoom on May 15, and Lincoln Solar Energy day on June 21.
- Michael Moodie designed a tool to evaluate the heat loss of a deck home and guide homeowners on their retrofit.
- Andrew Glass, FOMA, joined the subcommittee and will provide architectural advice for the retrofit process.
- CFREE is supporting Climate Action Lincoln on the MVP grant efforts by offering insight on certain 2030 Interim Targets and by working with the Assessor’s Office to gather data.
- CFREE is interested in setting up a shared site on Google Drive.
- **Action Items:**
 - CFREE will draft an updated mission statement for that subcommittee
 - Harvey will finalize a list of requests for the Lincoln Assessor’s office; Shorb will advocate by calling the Assessor’s Office in advance of CFREE contact.
 - Collette Sizer and Shorb to discuss the shared Google Drive site, folders and file naming conventions.

Shorb moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Harvey. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Roll Call:

Harvey	aye
Klem	aye
Lang	aye
Shorb	aye

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

The next meeting will be May 12, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Sizer, Minute-Taker