

# Meeting Minutes

## Green Energy Committee

### July 15, 2021

#### Participants

Paul Shorb, Chair  
Roy Harvey  
Jim Hutchinson  
Ed Kern  
Sue Klem  
Ed Lang  
Patricia O'Hagan  
CJ Volpone

#### Discussion

Paul S called the meeting to order at approximately 8:02 AM. He proposed the agenda for the meeting, as circulated previously.

Action items appear inline in red below and are listed again at the end.

1. **Prior meeting's minutes.** Minutes to the previous meeting (on June 10, 2021) had not been circulated and were not approved at this meeting.
2. **Community Choice Aggregation Opt-Up campaign.** Sue K said there are about 200 brochures available to be handed out. Patricia O suggested putting some with the tabling materials at her house. Sue K put brochures at the post offices, library, real estate firms, and some condo complexes. Paul solicited volunteers to table at the Lincoln Mall. The management of the Mall (Bill Jackson Associates, hired by RLF) needs to be notified that tabling will occur so that there is not too much activity at any given time. Ed K emailed Dennis Liu to invite him to GEC meetings and to discuss the latter's LT posts on opting up but has not reached him yet.  
Paul S suggested writing a letter to the Lincoln Squirrel about Opting Up.  
**Roy H volunteered to contact COA&HS about placing a notice about Opting Up in their monthly newsletter.**

Jim H presented a draft analysis of data on the opt-in program. The data from Peregrine (contact: Paul Gromer) is made available monthly. 16 electricity meters were added to the program last month. Some could be new residents who are put in by default. Six people opted up to 100%; two opted down; the remainder took the default option.

About 10% of the meters in the program have opted up to 100% green. This is the top penetration rate of Massachusetts programs that Peregrine administers.

Jim H can calculate the weighted average of greenness for the program, considering each customer's consumption and opt-in level. He estimated the average will be about 50% green.

The Peregrine/First Point data is only on people in the program, including those who opt down. People who left the program may have opted out of the program, moved/sold their house, or had their meter shut off; no data exists for them. A member remarked that it would be interesting if the data could show if

there's a correlation between house size or income and opt-in level. Rooftop solar customers' electricity consumption appears low because only the net amount is reported.

3. **Net Zero planning subcommittee.** This group is now called the Climate Action Planning Subcommittee. The new name reflects that the group will also work on zero waste and land use issues. Participants include J Glass, R Harvey, E Haslett, A Kalmus, S Klem, S Montori, Lynne Smith, and CJ Volpone. Paul S observed that the scope of CAP is now broader than GEC's. It may be desirable to broaden the charter or scope of GEC.

Sue K said that CAP wants to talk to about 10 town boards and committees, starting with GEC on September 9, to explain CAP's work, how it fits with theirs, and to prepare for the State of the Town meeting in November.

Patricia O asked whether GEC will have proposed legislation ready for the 2022 Town Meeting, e.g., a gas hookup ban. CJ said that a landfill solar PV proposal might be ready then.

Paul S said GEC should try to prepare a warrant article to vote on at 2022 TM.

Sue K and Roy H briefly discussed their spreadsheets (on benchmarking nearby towns' sustainability efforts and possible climate action plan elements, respectively). Sue K and Roy H will send their spreadsheets to Paul S to distribute.

4. **Residential subcommittee.** Sue K reported that the group continues to be active and successful. It maintains a presence on Lincoln Talk. Belinda Gingrich answers questions on heating, cooling, and the HeatSmart program.

Belinda Gingrich is also active in EVs. She had scheduled a test drive program last year, which was canceled due to COVID and will be rescheduled in September or later.

Sue K gives updates and answers questions via Lincoln Talk on the MassSave program for home energy efficiency assessments and loans to implement efficiency improvements. Homeworks did 24 virtual home assessments during COVID in Lincoln in the last year. Sue contacted all condo complexes, except Todd Pond and Ridge Road and needs contacts for them. Sue recommends the Energy Sage web site to get competing bids on home rooftop PV.

Paul S asked for suggestions for rooftop PV vendors. Sue K recommended SunBug. Ed K recommended Blue Sel, who did the system at First Parish. Ed said the town Building Inspector has a list of all companies that pulled permits for PV.

## 5. **WIDE follow-up**

GEC desires to expand the diversity of its membership, especially regarding age, income, and gender.

- Paul S called Tom Longnecker to join GEC.
- Sue K: Abby Butt of COA&HS works on issues for low/moderate income people. Paul S to call Abby Butt for member candidates.
- Paul S called Allen Vander Muelen, Housing Commission chair, but hasn't heard back.
- Paul S continues to look for a LSRHS youth contact.
- Ed L to contact a SLPAC rep at the next SLPAC meeting.
- Ed K to continue to try to contact Dennis Liu about interest in joining GEC meetings.
- Sue K asked Deb Wallace to join meetings.
- Roy H to contact Michael Moodie about participating in GEC meetings.

## 6. **Other ongoing projects**

Ed K to talk to Tim Higgins about the landfill PV project.

Ed K: James Booth said he had time to update his Lincoln GHG Emissions report at no charge. The Committee agreed this would be good to do. Ed to ask Booth to update his GHG report.

Next meeting August 12, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday. Due to summer vacations, attendance may be lower.

Paul S moved to adjourn. Ed K seconded. Unanimous vote: Lang, Klem, Harvey, Shorb, Kern. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35 AM.

### **Action items**

1. Roy H: Contact COA&HS about placing a notice about Opting Up in their monthly newsletter.
2. Sue K: Arrange to talk to town boards and committees, starting with GEC on September 9.
3. Paul S/GEC: Start preparing a warrant article to vote on at TM.
4. Sue K and Roy H: Send benchmark towns and action plan spreadsheets to Paul S to distribute.
5. Paul S: Call Abby Butt for diversity member candidates.
6. Ed L: Contact a SLPAC rep at the next SLPAC meeting.
7. Ed K: Continue trying to contact Dennis Liu about interest in joining GEC.
8. Roy H: Contact Michael Moodie about participating in GEC.
9. Ed K: Talk to Tim Higgins about the landfill PV project.
10. Ed K: Ask James Booth to update his GHG report.

Respectfully submitted by Roy Harvey, 12 August 2021.