



FINAL

Meeting Minutes Alternative Energy Committee

TIME: Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7:30 pm

PLACE: Town of Cohasset Zoom session

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members

Tanya Bodell (chair)
Deborah Cook
Pat Gooding
Michael Schmitt
Josh Staunton
Steve Wenner

Excused Absences

Unexcused Absences

Guests

Fran Collins, Cohasset Advisory Comm.
Faisal Rashad, Student representative

Town Staff

Michelle Leary

1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

2) MEETING MINUTES

Mike Schmitt moved to approve the February 17 minutes, seconded by Steve Wenner. The minutes were approved 5-0-1, with Pat Gooding abstaining.

3) COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION SUBCOMMITTEE – Marketing and Next Steps

Steve Wenner said John O'Rourke from Good Energy had sent a sample contract for the AEC and Select Board to review. Steve Wenner confirmed that, once final bids are received, the Town only has one hour to sign the contract with the supplier. The Town also has the right to refuse the offers. Steve reported that he will set up a meeting upon her return to discuss how Cohasset and Good Energy will work together on marketing and implementation going forward.



Michelle Leary said the AEC was on the Select Board's agenda for a quarterly meeting on March 15, 2022. Steve Wenner also will attend and update the BOS on the status of electrical aggregation. One issue now stalling the project is that there still has been no action since the DPU approved the application with respect to the state's compliance filing.

ACTION ITEM: Michelle Leary to pass along the sample contract to Cohasset's Town Manager and Town Counsel for review.

ACTION ITEM: Steve Wenner and Debbie Cook to develop a marketing plan with Good Energy present to the AEC.

3) EARTH DAY 2022

Pat Gooding said that the AEC will have a table at town hall like last year and Brianna is getting the informational materials together. Steve Wenner said the posters for electrical aggregation are outdated and Tanya Bodell suggested that we make a poster from the graphic used in our Life on the Rocks article. Steve Wenner will obtain handouts from Good Energy.

ACTION ITEM: Tanya Bodell to make a poster from the graphic in LOTR describing community aggregation.

ACTION ITEM: Steve Wenner to ask Good Energy for handouts for Earth Day.

4) MAGAZINE SPREAD in Life on the Rocks

Tanya Bodell said that the five articles have been submitted and thanked AEC members for braving cold winds to be photographed at the charging stations behind the Library. Pat Gooding was unable to attend but should be photoshopped into the cover photo.

5) UPDATE ON INITIATIVES

Solar Energy RFP: Tanya Bodell said that the solar RFP project opportunities were still on hold, but Palmer Capital is continuing to look for third party sites. The Sewer Department has expressed interest in being the recipient of energy credits for solar.

- Fran Collins suggested that they look at Trustees of Reservations lands, particularly the field at the entrance to Whitey Woods.

- Debbie Cook suggested canopies could be placed on the parking lot of the medical center building across from the MBTA station, and perhaps be connected both to the adjacent sports complex and the MBTA station.
- Pat Gooding asked if solar panels could be placed on Lily Pond.
- Mike Schmitt replied that Braintree researched that idea, but realized that if the panels leaked, the water supply would be damaged.

Community Solar: This initiative is on the back burner for now.

Sustainability and Net Zero: Tanya Bodell said she will ask permission at the Select Board quarterly meeting to move forward on a sustainability initiative and to hire a sustainability consultant. In the meantime, AEC members should collect links to climate action plans in other towns. She also indicated that her company has been hired to consult on creating a climate action plan for Hingham.

ACTION ITEM: Tanya to prepare a presentation for the Select Board quarterly meeting asking permission to move forward on the GHG inventory grant from MAPC, and sustainability and net zero efforts, including asking for consideration of hiring a sustainability consultant.

ACTION ITEM: AEC members will collect links for Climate Action plans in other towns.

BRIC Grant: Tanya Bodell said that the BRIC grant was successfully submitted on January 26, but there has been no response yet. She said the town needs to think about having a warrant article for \$1M to fund the first phase of the grant, which will include studies that include investigation into heavy tree trimming benefits and costs, as well as pre-project contracting and procurement efforts. The BRIC grant will reimburse 75% of the cost if the grant application is successful.

Town Hall Renovation: Tanya Bodell presented the concept of using a microgrid with batteries for backup power generation to the town hall renovation committee. She told them that there was the potential of a 75% reimbursement through the BRIC grant if awarded and implemented as part of the microgrid.

Go Electric: No report.

6) DATA REPORT: Tanya reported that Cohasset was nearing \$250,000 in savings, a correction from last month's meeting when she had incorrectly indicated that there had been \$300,000 in savings.

There was no report on the town's EV charging stations, but it may be time to start charging, because the town was spending \$500 or more per month to subsidize the electricity for users.

ACTION ITEM: Tanya Bodell will raise the potential need to start charging for electricity consumed at the electric charging stations.

7) MATTERS NOT REASONABLY KNOWN IN ADVANCE

There were none.

8) NEXT MEETINGS

Alternative Energy Committee meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of the month (unless adjusted for holidays) at 7:30 pm. The next meetings currently are planned for:

- April 14, 2022
- May 12, 2022

10) ADJOURNMENT

Pat Gooding made a motion to adjourn, and Josh Stanton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:33 pm.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

All Members

- Request authorization from the Select Board to pursue information concerning Climate Action Plans.
- Request the Select Board to allow the Alternative Energy Committee to move forward on using the Green House Gas grant from MAPC for a Green House Gas Inventory.
- Research grant opportunities for funding alternative energy solutions for the Town.
- Collect links for Climate Action Plans in other MA towns.

Tanya Bodell

- Tanya to continue with outreach to Town Committees to describe the Cohasset Microgrid Project and BRIC grant applications.
- Be ready to pull together presentation materials to be incorporated into the Cohasset Community Climate Summit.
- Ask Select Board to appoint one new member to the AEC.
- Arrange for presentation about hydrogen at an upcoming meeting.
- Research the possibility of using hydrogen to power the proposed microgrid's rotating generator.
- Tanya and Michelle Leary to continue open communications with the Town Hall Renovation Committee regarding potential backup options and grant opportunities.
- Print poster from the graphic in LOTR describing community aggregation.
- Prepare a presentation for the Select Board quarterly meeting asking permission to move forward on the GHG inventory grant from MAPC, and sustainability and net zero efforts, including asking for consideration of hiring a sustainability consultant.
- Raise the potential need to start charging for electricity consumed at the electric charging stations.

Debbie Cook

- Continue to pursue monitoring effort of the Go Electric Project.
- Work with Steve Wenner on marketing plan for electrical aggregation.

Pat Gooding

- Research Climate Action Plans in other communities to provide the basis for development of a Cohasset-specific Climate Action Plan.

Michelle Leary / Brianna Bennett

- Brianna to look into whether the Cohasset Climate Summit can be used as a formal outreach tool required by grants.
- Put Megan Aki's MAPC powerpoint on the AEC webpage.
- Brianna or Michelle put a link to Good Energy's website on AEC webpage and plan to put it on Cohasset's homepage in a prominent position as soon as the project is underway.
- Michelle Leary to pass along the sample contract to Cohasset's Town Manager and Town Counsel for review.
- Work with Tanya and Faisal to explore waste to heat systems to obtain sufficient background to decide whether the topic has potential opportunity in Cohasset.

Josh Stanton

- Discuss social media planning for the AEC at an upcoming meeting.

Steve Wenner

- Work with Good Energy to the extent any other assistance is needed to finalize the DPU approval process.
- Develop the outline of a marketing plan to ensure the details of the Community Choice Aggregation Plan and residential options are publicized.
- Ask Good Energy for hand-outs for Earth Day.
- Steve Wenner and Debbie Cook to develop a marketing plan with Good Energy present to the AEC.
- Steve to collect and display information on Community Choice Aggregation at the Earth Day Ecofest.