



**FINAL**

## **Meeting Minutes Alternative Energy Committee**

**TIME:** Thursday, March 16, 2023, 7:30 pm

**PLACE:** Town of Cohasset Zoom session

**ATTENDEES:**

**Committee Members**

Tanya Bodell (Chair)  
Pat Gooding (Vice-Chair)  
Deborah Cook  
Chris Oddleifson  
Mike Schmitt  
Josh Staunton  
Steve Wenner

**Excused Absences**

**Unexcused Absences**

**Guests**

Fran Collins, Advisory Committee  
  
Tom Callahan,  
Cohasset Planning Board Chair,  
Zoning Bylaw Committee Chair

**Town Staff**

**1) CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was officially called to order at 7:37 pm.

**2) MEETING MINUTES**

Committee members reviewed the meeting minutes from February 9, 2023.

**MOTION:**

Chris Oddleifson moved to approve the February 9, 2023 minutes. The motion was seconded by Pat Gooding. The minutes were approved 5-0, with Mike Schmitt and Josh Staunton not voting due to an inability to access the meeting until after the vote.

### **3) Tom Callahan, Chair of the Cohasset Zoning Bylaw Committee**

Tom Callahan explained that Cohasset's entire zoning bylaw has been re-examined during the last two years; much has changed since the last major rewrite 36 years ago.

Several bylaw changes will be introduced at the spring Town Meeting, which mostly deal with administrative issues. He expects that the most substantive bylaws will be discussed at Fall Town Meeting, including Articles 19 and 20, which relate to wind and solar installations and were originally written by the Alternative Energy Committee.

Town counsel, KP Law, recommended changes to comply with recent case law, which encourages the expansion of solar and wind to meet MA's climate change and resiliency goals. Tom noted that the Zoning Bylaw committee made additional recommendations and he requested that the AEC review the changes and give him feedback by June, so Town Counsel can draft the articles by September.

#### **MOTION**

Pat Gooding moved that the Alternative Energy Committee ask the Select Board for permission to study current and potential future technologies for wind and solar installations, and to assist the Zoning Bylaw Committee with modifying Articles 19 and 20 to accommodate these findings. Chris Oddleifson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Tom also asked if the AEC wanted to have a representative on the climate change/resiliency bylaw working group. He said it was an informal group and will be guided by the MAPC's model bylaw. Tanya noted that there was a separate committee addressing the climate change/resiliency issues and that those matters were not necessarily in the purview of the Alternative Energy Committee. That said, the Alternative Energy Committee has had liaisons to other Town committees and would consider whether or not a liaison should be established at a future date.

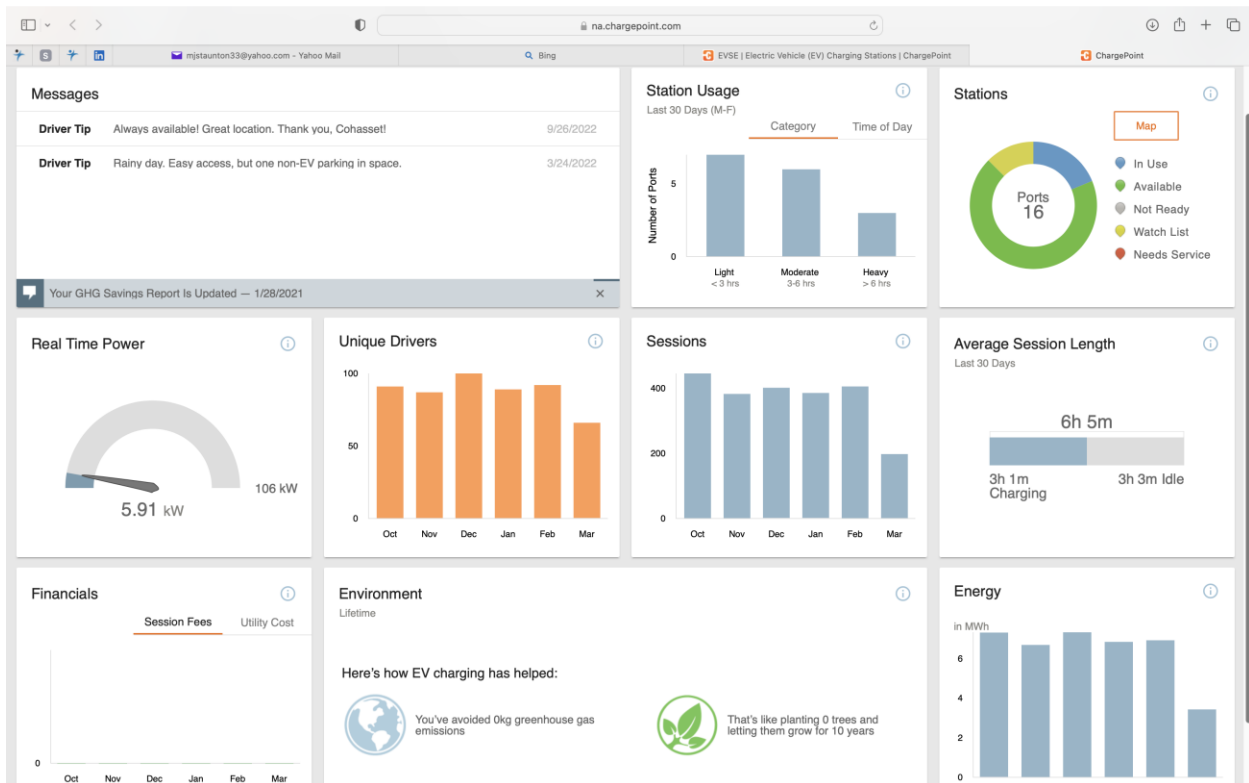
### **4) DATA REPORT**

Josh Staunton said that the solar array generated around \$10,000 in electricity savings in February.

**Solar Landfill Project: Net Benefits -- Town of Cohasset**

	Production (kWh - NGrid)	Fixed Electric Rate to Town (\$/kWh)	Payments to CohSolar LLC	Net Metering Credit Rate (\$/kWh)	Net Metering Credits	Other Charges/Credits	Net Benefits to Town of Cohasset
2017	154,352	\$ 0.08800	\$ (13,583)	\$ 0.17620	\$ 27,196	\$ (96)	\$ 13,517
2018	614,306	\$ 0.08800	\$ (54,059)	\$ 0.18585	\$ 114,171	\$ (120)	\$ 59,992
2019	632,196	\$ 0.08800	\$ (55,633)	\$ 0.18576	\$ 117,438	\$ (120)	\$ 61,685
2020	597,431	\$ 0.08800	\$ (52,574)	\$ 0.18264	\$ 109,116	\$ (120)	\$ 56,422
2021	568,499	\$ 0.08800	\$ (50,028)	\$ 0.19314	\$ 109,799	\$ (120)	\$ 59,651
2022	554,546	\$ 0.08800	\$ (48,800)	\$ 0.22798	\$ 126,426	\$ (120)	\$ 77,506
Jan-23	11,679	\$ 0.08800	\$ (1,028)	\$ 0.41587	\$ 4,857	\$ (10)	\$ 3,819
Feb-23	31,717	\$ 0.08800	\$ (2,791)	\$ 0.41587	\$ 13,190	\$ (10)	\$ 10,389
YTD 2023	43,396	\$ 0.08800	\$ (3,819)	\$ 0.41587	\$ 18,047	\$ (20)	\$ 14,208
Grand Total	3,164,726	\$ 0.08800	\$ (278,496)	\$ 0.19660	\$ 622,194	\$ (716)	\$ 342,981

He noted that the demand for EV charging remains stable. However, the carbon counter, which indicates how much carbon has been kept out of the atmosphere, is missing on the dashboard. He will check into what happened.



**5) COHASSET COMMUNITY ELECTRICITY**

Steve Wenner said that a report from Good Energy with enrollment data will be available at the end of March. Debbie Cook said that she and Steve plan to do a low-key push in the next few

weeks to get people to opt up to the 100% renewable option. One idea is to promote the Good Energy calculator which allows people to compare rates. Later in early April, they are considering creating a 'Penny for the Planet' contest with Westwood and Scituate to spur competition to encourage people to choose the 100% renewable option.

## **6) PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Debbie asked for ideas and people to staff a table at the Cohasset Rec and Health Fair on March 26. Pat and Tanya volunteered to help. They plan to form a committee to create materials for the table, including a powerpoint presentation about the AEC's projects. Debbie and Pat will bring iPads for people to try out the calculator.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Pat, Debbie and Tanya will organize and staff a table at the Cohasset Rec and Health Fair.

Debbie will check with Michelle Leary to find out if the Committee has a budget for its use.

In the spirit of Earth Day, Tanya suggested Committee members each come up with a topic about alternative energy for posting during Earth Week.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

The Committee agreed to hold a meeting on Wednesday, March 29 to discuss topics for Communications Director Justin Shrair to post on media sources for Earth Week.

## **7) MAPC Greenhouse Gas Report/GHG Inventory Report**

Josh recently received a Greenhouse Gas Inventory, created in 2017 by MAPC, which Tanya thought was established as part of the Green Community requirements. Steve questioned how the data in the report had been obtained and how it could be updated. Josh suggested inviting a representative from MAPC to our May meeting to answer questions.

### **ACTION ITEM:**

Josh will invite a representative from MAPC to address the GHG report/inventory.

## 8) GRANTS

- **MassCEC Batteries for Harborview:** Tanya said the contract is undergoing final review by MAPC.
- **Electric school bus:** Town Counsel is reviewing the contract. Tanya said there could be an issue because the school bus manufacturer said the bus needed to be charged by a Level 3 charger, which was not in the agreement.
- **Stop and Shop rooftop solar:** No report.
- **Green Communities Grant – deadline Fall 2023**

Debbie reported on behalf of the Sustainability Director:

Ginny spoke with Nick, Facilities Director, regarding applying for the Fall round of Green Community funding for controls for Osgood and Deer Hill for their HVAC systems. Cohasset already has installed new controls for the High School/Middle School with the last Green Communities grant and would like to have them be all the same year/model, which would make repairs and replacement easier.

Ginny has been emailing with Lisa from DOER regarding outstanding paperwork that Michelle and Nick are now aware of that needs to be completed to close out the High School/Middle School project in order for the Town to apply for the Fall grants.

<p><b>ACTION ITEM:</b> Ginny will confirm that there are funds available from the Green Communities program for Cohasset.</p>
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- **National Grid Fleet Assessment Update:** Nothing to report.

## 9) MATTERS NOT REASONABLY KNOWN IN ADVANCE

None.

## **10) NEXT MEETING**

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

The next meetings currently are planned for:

- March 29, 2023 (Special meeting)
- April 13, 2023
- May 11, 2023

## **11) ADJOURNMENT**

Chris Oddleifson made a motion to adjourn, and Pat Gooding seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:14pm.



## **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

### **All Members**

- Research grant opportunities for funding alternative energy solutions for the Town.
- Forward ideas for social media to Josh.

### **Tanya Bodell**

- Consult with Select Board to determine why the AEC's recommendation to charge \$0.20 per kWh has not yet been implemented.
- Arrange for presentation about hydrogen at an upcoming meeting.
- Assist schools with electric school bus demonstration project.
- Add ongoing agenda item to AEC's monthly agenda to discuss topics for social media and marketing.
- Work with Debbie and Pat to organize and staff a table at the March 26 Rec and Health Fair.
- Ask Select Board for approval to study solar and wind technologies and work with the Zoning Bylaw Committee to write the solar and wind bylaw revisions.

### **Chris Oddliefson**

- Monitor status of Harborview grant for backup batteries and help bring it to fruition.

### **Ginny LeClair**

- Update on the status of Town Counsel's review of the CEC battery contract.
- Check on the status of the Stop and Shop rooftop solar contract with Town Counsel.
- Track down the status of the MAPC grant for a carbon assessment for Cohasset.
- Check with Michelle on the status of the National Grid Fleet Assessment.
- Develop a recommendation for instituting and managing charging fees for the EV Charging Stations.
- Provide an update on the status of Town Counsel's review of the CEC battery contract and the electric school bus contract, and why the review process for the Palmer Capital proposal at Stop and Shop has not yet begun.
- Find out the procurement process for the Harborview batteries once the contract is approved.
- Determine where the Town is currently allocating its electricity credits and if the Town departments are utilizing all the credits.
- Research the Town's current electric rate and when the contract expires.

**Debbie Cook**

- Work with Steve Wenner on implementing marketing plan for electrical aggregation.
- Check with Michelle to see if AEC has been allocated funds in the Town budget for its use.

**Pat Gooding**

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

**Josh Staunton**

- Work with Steve Wenner and Debbie Cook on developing article ideas, messaging and marketing strategies to promote the AEC's initiatives.
- Continue compiling and presenting EV charging stations usage and demand, including a download of data since their operational beginning.
- Forward social media blurbs from AEC to Justin for posting.
- Invite a representative from MAPC to discuss the GHG Inventory report in May.

**Steve Wenner**

- Work with Debbie Cook to carry out marketing plan with Good Energy.
- Take the lead on the Stretch Code:
  - Obtain a speaker for a future AEC meeting to inform the AEC about the new stretch code
  - Research the Net Zero stretch code to determine future adoption.