



**Town of
Cohasset
Massachusetts**

FINAL

Meeting Minutes Alternative Energy Committee

TIME: Thursday, June 8, 2023, 7:30 pm

PLACE: Town of Cohasset Zoom Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members

Tanya Bodell (Chair)
Debbie Cook
Chris Oddleifson
Josh Staunton
Steve Wenner

Excused Absences

Guests

Unexcused Absences

Town Staff

Michelle Leary

1) CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was officially called to order at 7:55 pm due to technical issues with the Zoom feed.

2) MEETING MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the final draft of minutes from the Alternative Energy Committee's meeting on May 11, 2023. Chris Oddleifson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Tanya Bodell. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Josh Staunton abstaining. The minutes were approved.

3) Guest Speaker: John Hallin, Director of Planning, Permits & Inspections "The New Stretch Codes and Implications for the Town of Cohasset"

Due to the technical difficulties with Zoom and communications issues, the presentation by the guest speaker was deferred.

ACTION ITEM

Steve Wenner will re-invite the Cohasset Building Inspector to the July meeting to give members the opportunity to learn where Cohasset stands regarding implementing the new MA Stretch Codes.

4) ECOFEST

Debbie reported that the Second Annual EcoFest was a success! This year had an estimated 1,500 attendees, 500 more than last year, and raised \$6,000, roughly double the amount raised last year. Proceeds will fund environmental programs in schools through the Just1Bag Foundation. She thanked Josh, Steve, Tanya, and Chris for volunteering and noted that there was 100% participation from the current Alternative Energy Committee members.

Debbie also noted that the Cohasset Library has set up a display in the main lobby featuring the induction cooktop and energy monitors she has donated to the Cohasset Library on behalf of the Committee. The display, designed to promote the all-electric home, also showcases that these items are available for check-out through the Cohasset Library of Things.

5) GRANTS

- **Electric School Bus Demonstration Project:**

Tanya said that the electric school bus contract has been signed and the bus should be ready to roll before the beginning of the 2023-24 school year. Several issues remain, including the location of the charger. Tanya said that the Boston public schools, which has electric buses, informed the Town that Cohasset would need a Level 3 charger, particularly in winter when the battery charge can degrade more quickly. Enel X has agreed to fund the Level 3 charger, which costs much more than the Level 2 charger. Cohasset has ninety days to find a location for the charger.

- **MassCEC Batteries for Harborview:** Tanya indicated Ginny has obtained two bids for the batteries but needs one more to meet MA procurement requirements. Michelle Leary said that bids only need to be solicited, but do not have to be received, so once the third bid is requested, the project can move forward. One bid to install two Tesla Powerwalls costs more than the grant money available and it is possible that the Cohasset Housing Trust would consider funding any shortfall up to \$10,000.



ACTION ITEM:

Michelle will coordinate a meeting with the Cohasset Housing Trust, Chris Oddleifson, Tanya Bodell and Ginny LeClair so that a final decision can be made before the grant will be rescinded.

- **Green Communities Grant:** Michelle said the Town needs to close the current grant funding before receiving additional funds. She reported that Cohasset has \$100,000 available in future funding, which would bring Cohasset's total funding up to almost \$1 million from the Green Communities status, not counting energy cost savings.
- **MVP Proposals and Grants:** Michelle did not know the status of the grant applications for the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) that Ginny had applied for. Tanya reported that Ginny had been in communications with the grant funder, so she felt applying for MVP 1 for a climate action and resiliency plan for the Town was the best course of action, rather than applying for MVP 2.0, which focuses more on climate change and community buildings.
- **School Roof Solar Projects:** Steve Wenner noted that Massachusetts Fair Share is advocating for money in the MA state budget to replace school roofs and install solar panels. Michelle said there was no timetable to replace Cohasset school roofs at this time, but noted that Deer Hill and Osgood school roofs were built in 2001. Tanya suggested that the idea of solar carports at the schools could be revisited in the context of a bus depot.

ACTION ITEM:

Tanya will look up the FEMA BRIC grant and talk with Glenn Pratt about applying for a FEMA BRIC Grant to fund the bus depot and backup power for the emergency response center located in Deer Hill School.

6) NEW MEMBERS

Michelle said that there have not been any applications for the AEC. Chris said he had sent an email to a woman he met at EcoFest who had expressed interest and invited her to attend a meeting, but he has heard nothing. Tanya said Justin Shrair is writing a press release about the electric bus and could be asked to include a request for applicants.

ACTION ITEM:

Tanya will ask Justin Shrair to include a request for applicants to the AEC in his press release. Steve will contact Tom Daly, facilities manager at BU, who had expressed interest in being on the AEC.

7) DATA REPORT

Solar Energy Array at Transfer Station: Tanya reported that the solar array at the landfill has saved Cohasset \$383,000 to date (Attachment A).

Solar Array at Stop and Shop: Michelle said there was no update on the contract. Tanya said that if Cohasset did have a signed contract, it could pressure National Grid to expedite the interconnection study and make a determination as to cost to proceed.

Charging Stations: Josh said that the highest number of unique drivers (134) was recorded in May (Attachment B). The electricity cost to the Town was \$1,887 using the residential rate, although it was actually less because the Town pays less per kilowatt hour under competitive supply. Michelle reported that the Town will start implementing a new charging plan in July, which will include free charging for as long as the car is charging, but large fees for staying at the charger after the charging is complete.

8) MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Committee discussed the need to use social media to promote interest in filling positions on the Alternative Energy Committee.

9) MATTERS NOT REASONABLY KNOWN IN ADVANCE

- Tanya suggested that when the AEC gets its new members, the AEC should re-organize, and asked committee members to think about taking on new positions, including Chair and Vice Chair.
- The new School Committee liaison to the Alternative Energy Committee will be Ted Carr.
- The committee discussed ongoing logistical problems associated with setting up and running the Committee's meetings and how to improve the process.



ACTION ITEM:

Tanya and Michelle will discuss how to solve the logistical problems with Zoom so that meetings are not delayed.

- Josh requested that the AEC follow up with the MAPC GHG Inventory report that was completed in 2017. He wanted to schedule a Zoom meeting with them and offered to set the meeting up. Josh also said he would send the report to AEC along with a presentation that he received.

ACTION ITEM:

Tanya, Josh and Debbie will arrange and facilitate the meeting with MAPC, including questions in advance.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Chris Oddleifson made a motion to adjourn, and Josh Staunton seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:33 pm.



SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

All Members

- Reach out to potential candidates for AEC membership.
- Research grant opportunities for funding alternative energy solutions for the Town.
- Forward ideas for social media to Josh.

Tanya Bodell

- Reach out to people who have expressed an interest in the past, indicate that there are openings, and encourage them to apply.
- Reach out to Brad Moyer, Chair of the Hingham Climate Action Planning Committee to invite him to speak with the Alternative Energy Committee once the final Hingham Climate Action Plan is complete.
- Arrange for presentation about hydrogen at an upcoming meeting.

Chris Oddleifson

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

Virginia LeClaire

- Update on the status of Town Counsel's review of the MassCEC battery contract.
- Check on the status of the Stop and Shop rooftop solar contract with Town Counsel.
- Check with Michelle on the status of the National Grid Fleet Assessment. If this has stalled, work directly with National Grid to see if a Fleet Assessment is still possible.
- 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.
- Develop grant application for Green Communities funding to be submitted fall 2023.

Debbie Cook

- Work with Michelle to obtain funds for AEC and dedicated Town Counsel hours.

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.

Steve Wenner

- Re-invite the Cohasset Building Inspector to the July meeting.



ATTACHMENT A Solar Energy Array Operations

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	NGrid Customer Charge	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
Mar-23	42,014	\$ 0.08800	\$ (3,697)	\$ 0.41891	\$ 17,600	\$ (10)	\$ 13,893
Apr-23	50,994	\$ 0.08800	\$ (4,487)	\$ 0.41947	\$ 21,390	\$ (10)	\$ 16,893
May-23	58,346	\$ 0.08800	\$ (5,134)	\$ 0.25737	\$ 15,016	\$ (10)	\$ 9,872
YTD 2023	194,750	\$ 0.08800	\$ (17,138)	\$ 0.36998	\$ 72,054	\$ (50)	\$ 54,866
Grand Total	3,316,080	\$ 0.08800	\$ (291,815)	\$ 0.20392	\$ 676,201	\$ (746)	\$ 383,639

ATTACHMENT B Electric Charging Station Utilization Reports

