



**FINAL**

**Meeting Minutes  
Alternative Energy Committee**

**TIME:** Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm

**PLACE:** Town of Cohasset Zoom session

**ATTENDEES:**

**Committee Members**

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

**Excused Absences**

None

**Unexcused Absences**

None

**Guests**

Corey Evans, Cohasset Selectboard  
Matt Parent, Marshfield Energy Committee  
Lydia St. Onge, Cohasset School Committee

**Town Staff**

Michelle Leary

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was officially called to order at 7:35 pm.

**2) MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION:**

Steve Wenner moved to approve the July 28, 2022 minutes, seconded by Pat Gooding. The minutes were approved 6-0-1, with Pat Gooding abstaining.



### 3) **GUEST SPEAKER: Matthew Parent, Chair, Marshfield Energy Committee**

Matt Parent presented to the Alternative Energy Committee.

- **Landfill Solar:** Marshfield's first renewable energy action was to put a solar array on the landfill.
- **School Roof Solar:** Marshfield is now putting rooftop solar on their schools, potentially saving Marshfield \$2.5 million over the next twenty years.
- **EV Charging Stations:** In every location where Marshfield is installing solar panels, they plan to construct Electric Vehicle Level 2 charging stations, with a goal of 40 Level 2 chargers and 80 ports.
- **EV Fees:** To manage billing for the charging stations, Marshfield is purchasing a software plan from Chargepoint, and is investigating the ASSURE program for charging station maintenance. Matt noted that they have not yet considered depreciation or replacement costs.
- **New Renewables:** Marshfield has set up an account for renewable energy projects, funded by 10% of the energy savings from their renewable projects.
- **Municipal Accounting:** Matt indicated that he was not sure how the account for renewable energy projects was structured but offered to find out.

#### **Action Item**

Patricia Gooding to follow-up with Matt Parent on how Marshfield has structured its renewable energy account.

Regarding the installation of solar on Marshfield school roofs, Matt said that Next Grid gave the best bid. The plans call for replacing the roofs, with negotiations allowing the developer to get tax breaks. Matt stressed that tax breaks and incentives for solar projects have been greatly enhanced by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act.

### 4) **ETHICS TRAINING**

Tanya asked each member to confirm that: 1) They are sworn in; and 2) up-to-date on their ethics/conflict of interest training. All Alternative Energy Committee members must be up to date on their ethics training, which is required to be renewed every two years.

#### **Action Item**

Each member to check that they are current on their ethics training and must submit a certificate of completion of the course to the Clerk Leisa Legge.



## **5) NATIONAL GRID FLEET ASSESSMENT**

Tanya suggested asking Michelle Leary to provide an update at the next meeting about the status of the National Grid Fleet Assessment. Josh Staunton and Mike Schmitt, who had agreed to work with Michelle, said they had not heard anything.

### **Action Item**

Tanya to ask Michelle to give a status report on the National Grid Fleet Assessment project at the AEC's next meeting.

Patricia Gooding asked about whether there was an update on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory project.

### **Action Item**

Tanya to ask Michelle to give an update on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory project, funded with a grant by MAPC.

## **6) ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS PRICING STRATEGY**

In July, the AEC set a goal to develop a pricing strategy for Electric Vehicle charging at the September meeting to recommend to the Select Board for implementation.

Straw Proposal: At a minimum, pricing should cover the cost of electricity consumed by each user with an additional charge to cover Chargepoint's service fees.

- Chris Oddleifson suggested that the AEC define the goals of the program to set the fees. He suggested that we could start with an experiment to understand potential demand destruction with pricing, and adjust over time as objectives are defined or modified.
- Pat Gooding thought that the goals should be to incentivize EV growth and to leverage the government's initial grant funding, and she recommended that pricing should only cover the direct usage costs.
- Mike Schmitt offered that service and replacement should be considered, noting the high cost of construction of the two EV ports in Hingham.
- Debbie Cook expressed concern that if repair and replacement costs were factored into the pricing strategy, the consumer price would be prohibitive. Based on a survey she had compiled of charging stations in neighboring towns, she noted that most of the charging stations that weren't free, charged around \$0.20/kWh.
- Tanya asked if there was a general approach that the Committee could agree on.

- Committee members felt that consensus could be reached, recognizing that this would be an initial recommendation that could change over time.

## **MOTION**

Tanya Bodell made a motion, seconded by Chris Oddleifson, that the AEC recommend charging a base price of \$0.20/kWh designated for the Town of Cohasset and an additional amount to cover Chargepoint's administrative costs.

MOTION APPROVED 6-0-1, with Steve Wenner abstaining.

## **7) GRANT UPDATES**

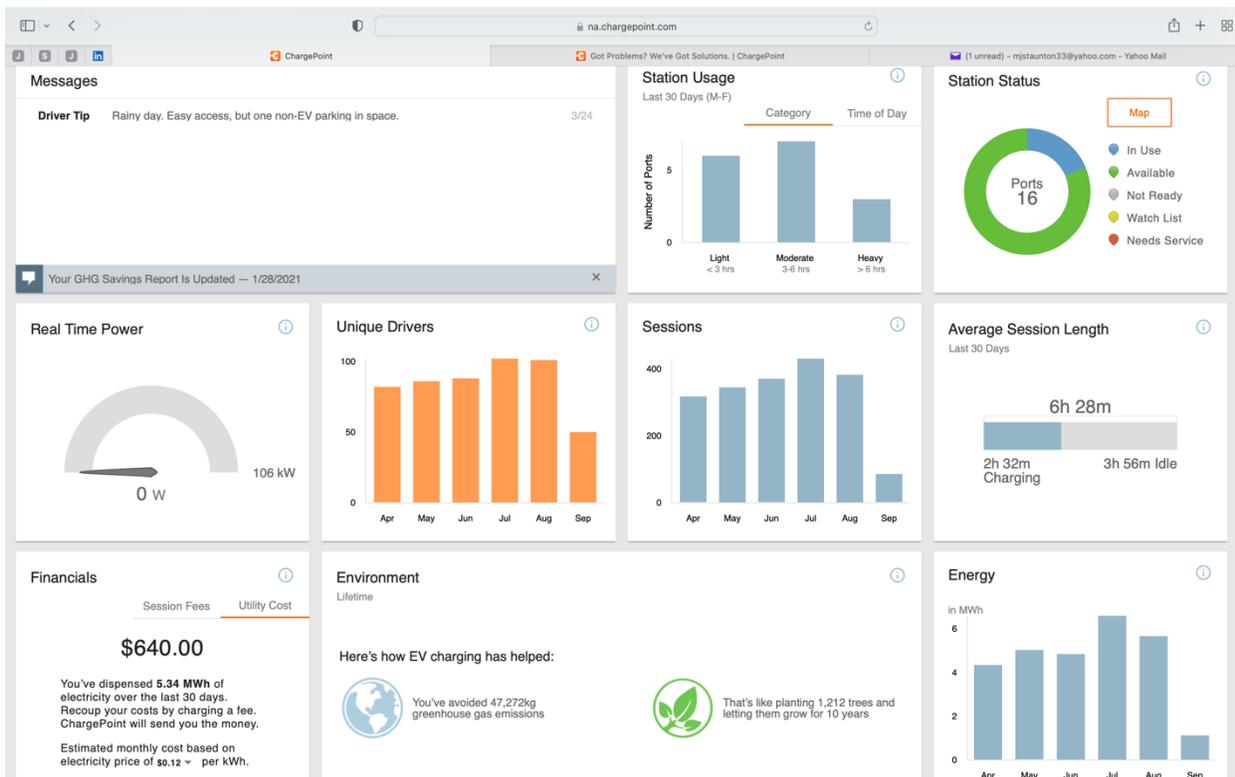
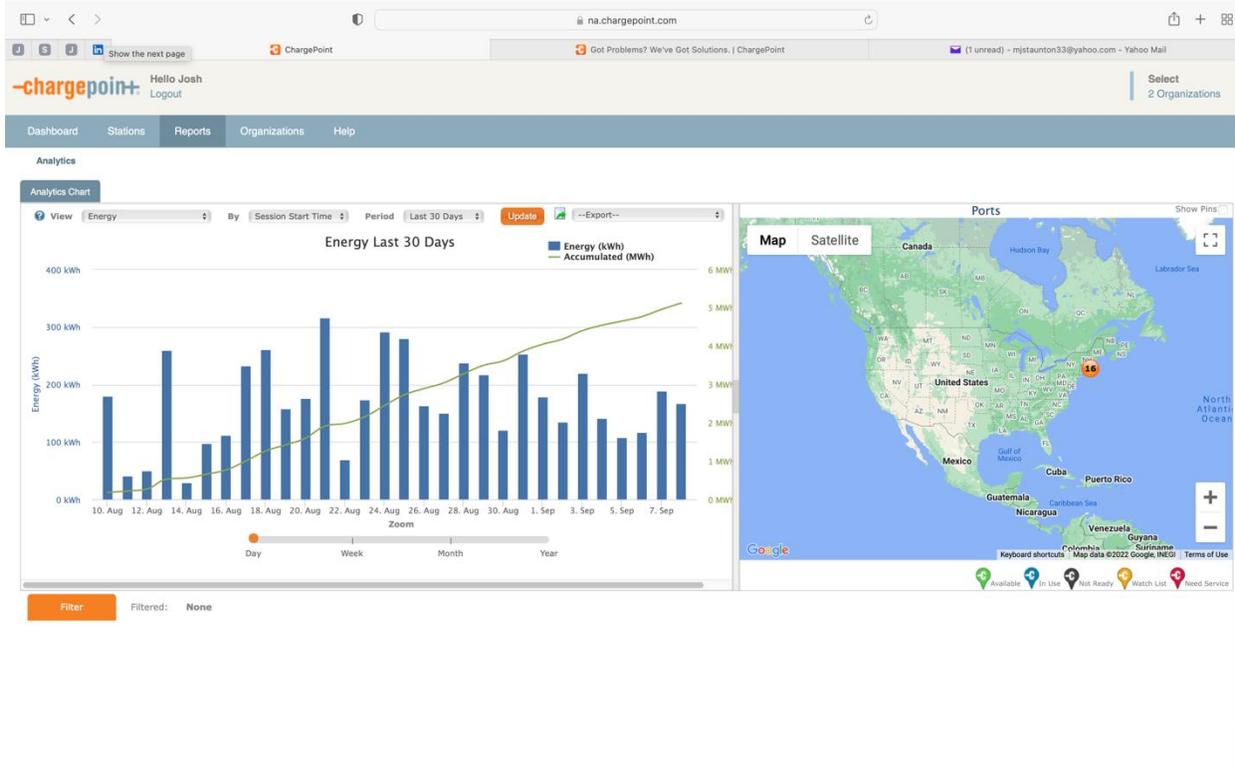
The Committee reviewed a number of grants in process or awarded.

- **BRIC Grant:** Tanya reported that the grant application was not chosen, but that the Inflation Reduction Act offers incentives for microgrids.
- **Diesel Emissions Reductions questionnaire:** Tanya said the AEC was not able to participate because there were too many moving parts, including involving other town boards, in the time allotted to respond.
- **Electric School Bus:** Two bids were received, one from an energy manager and one from a school bus company. The proposed energy manager bid is very competitive.
- **Batteries for Harborview Housing:** The Town received \$20,000 from the MA Clean Energy Center for the batteries, which, with grants from the Town, will bring the total available to \$60,000. These funds could power the batteries in the common area at Harborview for 8 days in summer and 3 days in winter during a power outage.
- **Inflation Reduction Act:** Tanya provided a quick overview of the legislation, and stated that the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act offers funding opportunities for many clean and renewable energy in Cohasset.

The text can be found here. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5376/text>

## **8) DATA REPORTS**

Josh compiled the following screen shots showing the electricity usage for the charging stations.





**9) MATTERS NOT REASONABLY KNOWN IN ADVANCE**

**Community Electrical Aggregation:** Steve Wenner reported that Cohasset’s Community Electricity Aggregation application has been stalled yet again, because the DPU asked for another compliance filing. He said the six towns that filed simultaneous applications are joining together to write a letter asking our state representatives to also band together and demand that the DPU approve our applications that have been languishing for more than two years.

MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION PLANS in DPU Docket Filed Between Jan. 1, 2019 and Oct. 29, 2021,								
	Initial Filing	Approved or	Date of	Date	Time Waiting At DPU		Initial Filing Description	
Municipality	Submitted	In Process	Approval	Today	Days	Yrs		
28	Burlington	05/30/19	in process		06/02/22	1099	3.01	Petition for Approval of its
29	North Brookfield	05/30/19	in process		06/02/22	1099	3.01	Petition for Approval of its
30	Mendon	08/21/19	in process		06/02/22	1016	2.78	Petition for Approval of its
31	Marshfield	02/21/20	approved	12/30/21		678	1.86	Petition for Approval of its
32	Scituate	02/21/20	approved	12/30/21		678	1.86	Petition for Approval of its
33	Cohasset	02/24/20	approved	12/30/21		675	1.85	Petition for Approval of its
34	Rochester	02/24/20	approved	12/30/21		675	1.85	Petition for Approval of its
35	Uxbridge	02/24/20	approved	12/30/21		675	1.85	Petition for Approval of its
36	Westwood	02/24/20	approved	12/30/21		675	1.85	Petition for Approval of its
37	Ashland	09/23/20	in process		06/02/22	617	1.69	Petition for Approval of its
38	Dalton	09/23/20	in process		06/02/22	617	1.69	Petition for Approval of its
39	Weston	10/29/20	in process		06/02/22	581	1.59	Petition for Approval of its
40	Bolton	11/18/20	in process		06/02/22	561	1.54	Petition for Approval of its
41	Fitchburg	12/31/20	in process		06/02/22	518	1.42	Petition for Approval of its
42	Quincy	01/29/21	in process		06/02/22	489	1.34	Petition for Approval of its
43	Chelsea	02/26/21	in process		06/02/22	461	1.26	Petition for Approval of its
44	Beverly	03/17/21	in process		06/02/22	442	1.21	Petition for Approval of its
45	Amesbury	04/23/21	in process		06/02/22	405	1.11	Petition for Approval of its
46	Sherborn	05/14/21	in process		06/02/22	384	1.05	Petition for Approval of its
47	Andover	07/09/21	in process		06/02/22	328	0.90	Petition for Approval of its

**Social media:** Josh Staunton said he has been in contact with the Town’s new communications manager who has agreed to help the AEC with its communications, including social media. Josh suggested that at each meeting, the AEC determine up to five projects, actions or pieces of information that could be relayed to the public through social media. Debbie Cook suggested that this discussion should be a permanent agenda item.

**Action Item**

Add a permanent line item to the AEC’s monthly agenda for discussion about potential topics for social media during the following month.

**10) 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:



- October 13, 2022
- November 10, 2022

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Steve Wenner made a motion to adjourn, and Chris Oddleifson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:42pm.



## **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

### **All Members**

- Request authorization from the Select Board to pursue information concerning Climate Action Plans.
- Research grant opportunities for funding alternative energy solutions for the Town.

### **Tanya Bodell**

- 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.
- Raise the potential need to start charging for electricity consumed at the electric charging stations.
- Research possibility of a financial structure, such as a reserve fund, to hold funds generated by AEC projects to use for clean energy projects.
- Add ongoing agenda item to AEC's monthly agenda to discuss topics for social media.

### **Debbie Cook**

- Continue to pursue monitoring effort of the Go Electric Project.
- Work with Steve Wenner on marketing plan for electrical aggregation.
- Work with Energy Sage, once the partnership is approved, to educate and promote solar to capitalize on Energy Sage's resources.

### **Pat Gooding**

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

### **Michelle Leary**

- Remind Town Counsel to review the Energy Sage MOU.
- Research how other towns manage their EV charging stations' usage and billing.

- 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.
- 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.
- Monitor and execute on grants awarded to Cohasset through the AEC efforts.

### **Josh Staunton**

- Work with Steve Wenner and Debbie Cook on developing article ideas, messaging and marketing strategies to promote the AEC's initiatives.
- Work with Michelle Leary on creating a report of the EV charging stations usage and demand since their operational beginning.

### **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.
- Steve Wenner and Debbie Cook to develop a marketing plan with Good Energy to present to the AEC.