



**Energy & Sustainability Committee
Minutes
Thursday, February 16, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Zoom**

Attendees:

Members: Bob Dorer (chair), John Shutkin (*minute taker*), Dan Bostwick, Patricia Fabian, Margot Fleischman, and Chris Rabinowitz

Liaison(s):

Town Staff: Ron Scaltreto (Bedford Facilities)

Visitor(s): Karen Willson (at start of meeting)

Bob Dorer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and reviewed the various requirements of the Governor's emergency order related to the use of remote meetings and how participation is handled in the Zoom webinar format being used by the Town of Bedford. A roll call of Energy and Sustainability Committee (ESC) members present was conducted. Five members being present at the time, Bob then proceeded with the published agenda for the meeting.

- 1. Public Comment** – No members from the public were interested in speaking.
- 2. January Meeting Minutes** – Chris wished to propose changes to Item 4(a) relating to composting, but needed to work on updated wording to do so. Bob suggested that she prepare revised wording for consideration at the next meeting and deferred approval of the minutes until then.
- 3. Energy & Sustainability Manager** – Bob reported that the revised job posting is now on the Town website, but is seeking clarification from the Town Manager as to its posting on Indeed and LinkedIn. Margot reported that there were no new candidates at this time. There was brief discussion as to the lack of reference to commercial sector experience in the posting. Chris noted that it was more important to encourage applications as job requirements can change over time.
- 4. Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant for any ESC-related Articles** – Bob reported that the draft Annual Town Meeting Warrant has now been issued and that he did not see anything directly tying into the ESC Charter, but requested input from



the rest of the Committee. Dan agreed, but asked Ron several questions about specific Town vehicle replacements. Bob indicated that further discussion of the Warrant would be held at ESC's March meeting, and Patricia noted that there should be particular focus on energy sustainability issues relating to two-family dwellings (Article 22 of the Warrant).

- 5. DOER Stretch Code and Building Energy Use Disclosure Bylaw Status Updates** – Bob reported that there have been no legislative developments and Patricia added that there may be revised language for towns to put into their by-laws, but not until the fall. Chris noted that MAPC had just had a webinar on the Stretch Code. Margot indicated that the Select Board is interested in putting together a meeting of stakeholders, but planning for that will be deferred until after the Town Meeting. She added that she also hoped to have more information following the MAGIC/MAPC meeting in March. Dan reported on a recent tour of an all-electric house under construction in Bedford that Emily Prince and Bob were also on that had been arranged by its builder. Margot explained that there was a lot of confusion over the terms “Stretch” Code vs. “Specialized” Code, particularly since the Base Code is now more efficient than the original Stretch Code. She is hopeful that this will be clarified soon, stressing that, in any event, a Net Zero Code is the ultimate goal.
- 6. Composting** – Chris reported on various components. As to curbside pick-up, it is now used in 348 households, up by two from the last report. There is no change in the number of sign-ups for the pilot composting project at the Carlisle Compost & Recycling Center (22 users). As to the schools, the primary obstacle appears to be one of insufficient staffing and Ron concurred. Chris proposed that a strategic plan and/or task force should be considered. There was further discussion as to possible student involvement and the usage of compostable packaging. Margot explained that composting in schools must be addressed by the School Committee; it is not within the jurisdiction of the ESC, as it is a Select Board committee. Chris suggested that there needs to be greater publicity for composting, including articles in or letters to the Bedford Citizen. As to businesses, Chris noted that Mitre appears to be very supportive of composting efforts in its facilities.
- 7. Community Choice Aggregation** – Bob noted that Emily Prince was updating CCA materials. He also indicated that he would be making a presentation on CCA at the Council on Aging on February 22nd at 10 a.m..
- 8. Multi-Town Gas Leaks** – Chris discussed this in Item 12 below.



9. **Town Buildings** – Ron reported that an RFP is now out for the library extensive upgrade project and that the police department building expansion should be finished in mid- April. He stressed that the Town sought to make all of its building projects as energy efficient as possible, with a goal of Net Zero ready. Margot added that this would also be the case with the new fire station, which is still in its early planning stages. Chris suggested that the Town should consider doing more to publicize its efforts in this regard.

10. **Car Idling/School Collaboration** – Chris (speaking on behalf of Emily) indicated that both Lane and JGMS will be having art contests in March aimed at discouraging idling in their parking lots.

11. **Funding Opportunities to Support ESC Mission** – No updates.

12. **Neighboring Towns and Regional Projects and Programs of Interest** – Chris reported on gas leak efforts. She noted that it is still early in the new MA administration and legislative sessions, but reported on H.D. 4047 allowing for greater intervention by third parties in public utility proceedings, which could have a positive effect on managing gas leaks. She also noted that HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team) has updated and improved its gas leaks map.

13. **Review and Discussion of ESC Mission Statement** – Bob referred to the Mission Statement in the agenda and asked Margot to confirm it was current and complete, noting it had disappeared from the ESC home page on the Town's updated website. Margot noted she would double-check and also noted the Town is still refining the updated website and dealing with other missing material as well. She said the Town will get the most recent approved ESC Mission Statement back up on the website and will also distribute it to ESC. Bob asked Margot if the Select Board was comfortable with this current Mission Statement and Margot explained that the Select Board encourages committees to alert the Select Board if the committee feels it needs something added or changed and recalled ESC revisiting the change in the last year or so and found it was working for the Committee.

14. **Discuss Possible Agenda for ESC March Committee Meeting** – As indicated in Item 4 above, there will be further discussion of the Warrant, particularly Article 22. In this regard, it is hoped that Chris Gittins will be able to attend and discuss this Article. If Chris has a conflict, Bob will reach out to him prior to the meeting to get



some updated information from Chris for presentation at the meeting to help inform the discussion.

- 15. Webpage Review – Review of Proposed ESC Webpage Update** – Dan has recently updated the EV charging document with new numbers, indicating that usage is up significantly. This will be posted on the website shortly.

- 16. Adjournment** -- Dan moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Chris seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 6-0-0.