



**Energy & Sustainability Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 12, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

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

Liaisons:

town committees: Amy Lloyd (Planning Board)

town staff: Taissir Alani, (*Director of Facilities and Zoom host*), Ron Scaltreto, (*Assistant Director of Facilities*), Bedford TV (*meeting recording for later broadcast*)

visitors: Erin Dorr, Brendan Welch, Mike Rosenberg; absent Suzy Enos

Emily Prince 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. 6 members being present Prince then proceeded with the published agenda for the meeting.

1. **Public Comment** – No members from the public were interested to speak.
2. **ESC Priorities for FY 2022 & FY 2023** – Emily referenced the draft list from the last committee meeting she had distributed to the committee prior to the meeting noting we would focus on FY 2023 and then requested comments and other inputs from committee members.
  - Dan noted the Net Zero items are right on and posed what is the best role of the committee to assist the town in fulfilling Net Zero goals in new construction? Taissir underlined the town's total commitment to Net Zero in new construction, such as the new fire station.
  - Chris noted Net Zero issues should be a key factor in site location determinations for new construction town buildings.
  - John noted the Planning Board's important role in addressing energy improvement aspects, such as encouraging more solar power generation, during site plan reviews. He also noted we should add something to these goals related to supporting more solar installations in town, such as the potential site on Hartwell Hill, and in general to push for more consideration of adding solar farms on town land that might be appropriate for such installations.



- Bob noted we should also add something about periodically checking the MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) Municipal Net Zero Playbook for additional ideas or to help inform some of our initiatives.
- Emily noted that the developer with some new construction planned that John was referring to is interested in hearing more from us about energy efficiency improvement ideas and she will invite him to our June meeting.
- Emily also noted consideration of a zoning bylaw amendment may be an approach to consider for encouraging more solar panel installations.
- Margot noted that one way or another such bylaw amendments need to involve the Planning Board and Amy mentioned the Planning Board would welcome participation of the ESC as subject matter experts on any such initiatives.
- Bob offered a bullet on tracking state and federal grant opportunities may also be useful.
- Amy questioned if resilience is part of the ESC charge and if so the concept of burying more utility lines might be a good long term strategy relative to increasing weather related utility operational resilience.
- Margot noted the importance of coordination and education related to initiatives that bridge across various town committees and community.
- Chris emphasized the importance of communication, monitoring, and reaching out to other committees as appropriate within our initiatives and committee charge.

On a related note Emily inquired about the status of our committee reaching out to the new Economic Development Director. Dan volunteered to do so as a follow-up on a similar plan that was delayed due to Covid.

Emily stated she will now refine the list and make the updates needed based on these inputs and get the updated priority list back to committee members to see where they can best volunteer to assist at our June meeting.

- 3. State Legislative Updates** – no updates.
- 4. Energy and Sustainability Manager** – Emily reported that she will be on the second level round of interviews representing the ESC. The goal is to have the position filled by July 1. The understanding is the person who fills this position will attend our meetings.
- 5. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)** – Christine plans to dig deeper into PACE and how it might be relevant to the work of the ESC. PACE finances energy improvements through betterment assessments and a lien on the property which repays the investment. Available for commercial, industrial, non-profit and multifamily properties with 5 or more units.



**6. Status updates –**

- a. Bedford Arbor Resources Committee – no update.
- b. EV stations for the public – The Coffee and EV's event this past Saturday at Depot Park was a great success with most of the committee participating and many folks stopped by. We had around 10 EVs of all types showed up for the display and the owners were very engaged in discussing all the pros of EVs and how they handle charging, etc. Emily may look into scheduling another event of this type at a second location. There was some discussion on additional expansions, Ron shared they are working on another station for Lane School that will be more ADA accessible. The plans are already being worked on. Christine inquired about fast charging stations and if any are in Bedford, it was noted the closest might be at the Burlington Mall. Taissir noted fast charging stations can be quite costly (purchase and installation), right now the town continues to install level 2 charging stations.
- c. Composting – 326 subscribers (+5 from last meeting) using Black Earth. Curbside composting continues to be a costly potential addition that would need Town Meeting action. Emily mentioned supporting restaurant composting might be something the committee may want to support in the future. Christine noted Concord is running a pilot program with large bins (48 gal) that those who are participating can come to and deposit their compost in the bins (\$60 per week for four bins). She has talked to the Town of Concord and plans to contact Black Earth to get more information on this program. Christine also noted that Mothers out Front held a composting fair recently and many of those who stopped by seemed to really enjoy the event (ESC also co-sponsored the event with MOF). The idea of reaching out to the various school green teams for engagement and support was also raised.
- d. CCA – No new numbers this month but the sandwich board advertising continues. Our POC for the program has moved on and we are currently working with an interim person.
- e. Gas Leaks – Christine noted that on May 24<sup>th</sup> MAPC is having another meeting on the topic (at noon) and someone from National Grid will be presenting. She has found past meetings of this sort quite interesting.

**7. Network Ground Source Geothermal Heat Pumps –** No updates. (Eversource has selected Framingham as the pilot town, beginning mid year, \$10M over 5 years. National Grid will do 4 sites, \$15.5M over 5 years.)

**8. ESC Webpage Review –** Bob noted we may want to highlight our committee's charge from the Select Board. Dan noted we should update the link to our latest annual report to the town.



9. **New Business** – Bob raised the topic of cars in town idling at various locations in town that appear to be violating the state law on idling (Part I, Title XIV, Chapter 90, Section 16A – Stopped Motor Vehicles; Operation of Engine; Time Limit; Penalty). Some interesting discussion on the problem and the challenges of how to do a better job of educating drivers as to why reducing idling is important for a variety of reasons. Cars lined up at the schools for pickup as well as some sporting events were noted as particularly problematic. Margot noted the Safe Routes to School Program may be one source to help get the word out. Amy noted the buses are compliant but she does witness an amazing number of cars lined up as she drives one of the buses. John mentioned we may be able to engage one or more of the schools “Green Teams”.
10. **Remote v. In-Person Meeting Vote** – After some discussion it was decided to remain remote and revisit moving to in-person (with the pre-covid option for some to attend remotely as long as in-person quorums are met) at each meeting as long as the state option for such fully remote meetings is still in effect.
11. **Approve April Meeting Minutes** - Dan moved to approve the April minutes with the correction of minor typo under one of the attendees names, Christine seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 4-0-2.

Margot moved to adjourn at 8:18 pm. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-0.