



Energy and Sustainability Committee  
Thursday, May 18, 2023  
7:00 pm  
Remote Meeting – Minutes

Robert Dorer (chair) stated that we had a quorum, started meeting at 7:04 pm

Attendees: Robert Dorer, John Shutkin, Emily Prince, Dan Bostwick, Patricia Fabian, Christine Rabinowitz (minutes), Taissir Alani (Facilities), Ron Scaltreto (Facilities), Chris Gittins (Planning Board)  
Absent: Margot Fleishman (joined at 8:32 pm)

1. RD read state disclaimer re open meeting law allowing meeting to occur on Zoom
2. No public comments were made.
3. April 20, 2023 minutes reviewed, DB moved, EP 2<sup>nd</sup>, Vote 6-0-0.
4. Corinne Doud from Mothers Out Front (MOF) requested that ESC cosponsor the Forum related to Major Massport/Hanscom Private Jet Facilities Expansion.  
RD referenced flyer that she had sent. See April 20, 2023 minutes for details of expansion. MOF is cosponsoring with Bedford League of Women Voters and Bedford 3<sup>rd</sup> Act to host a community information forum approximately for one hour, hybrid format. To reach to Bedford TV to record for later viewing. Would like to have two speakers, one secured, Neil Rasmussen, president of Save Our Heritage. 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker undesignated at this time.  
Discussion:  
CR---who 3<sup>rd</sup> Act was? created by Bill McKibben, and other activities have been sponsored by them in town.  
CR---if small jet craft owners have a well-funded organization like the NRA. CD did not know.  
RD---timetable, why waiting until fall for the forum. CD responded that Save our Heritage felt that Fall was best, unclear when public comment will be allowed, possibly in the Fall. There has already been one comment period. The developer is taking into account those comments made by individuals and town leaders.  
PF--- about process. Does SB have input into the process at Massport.  
RD said Massport has independent authority. But SB can make comments as town leaders.  
PF---what should ESC be doing re relationship to Select Board  
EP said no specific information given to SB.  
RD--- if ESC chooses to support request from MOF, we will let SB know.  
JS commented about Bill McKibben credibility. Asked if someone spoke for pro-expansion could they be included.  
RD---what else we could do? Response was that we could draw up a draft re point to the SB.  
CD commented that Neil Rasmussen would be speaking at the upcoming MOF meeting on Monday, 5/22/2023. He will be presenting fact-based information about the proposal. MOF also has a meeting scheduled with Ken Gordon on May 31.  
Part of the land needed for the development is on private land so approval will be needed by some of our town boards.  
CR---ESC previously had sponsored forum re information about towns hiring Sustainability Directors  
PF---looking at ESC Charter---if fact-based then its educational to the public, if it is related to sustainability.  
CG---zoning is approved for the proposed use, so no input from Planning Board needed.  
DB---moved that we support forum, CR---seconded.



PF---concerned re 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker.  
DB offered to amend his motion.  
RD---we can always withdraw our support.  
Vote: 6-0-0.

5. Energy and Sustainability Manager update

EP---spoke with Colleen Doyle, acting TM, applications are low. Indeed charges \$40/app. Mass Municipal Assoc will repost in 30 days. Need to reach out to contacts. EP asked if any creative funding options.

DB---ad is posted in the MAPC newsletter each month.

RD---Margot F is liaison to MAPC. What more can we do to think out of the box? Could we augment other labor in interim?

CG---re recruiting, identify who we would like to bring in, what characteristics, what it would take to get that person here.

PF---we know salary is low, maybe we just need to get someone in and adjust the requirements.

CR---MAPC is supposed to help communities meet their planning goals, can we have Margot talk to someone there.

PF---what does Taissir think?

TA---agrees with PF to get someone with less experience, stay under TM, but work closely with Facilities and DPW

CR---is this discussed at staff meetings?

TA---he's been advocating since 2016. Reaching households through composting in schools. Energy and Econ Development can work together.

CR---how do we make that happen?

TA---Colleen wants to wait for new TM. Can we use funds for projects?

DB---what is timeline for new TM?

TA---maybe Oct-Nov

CG---spoke with Bopha (SB) who is hoping for Sept.

6. Plans for Adoption of Specialized Stretch Code (SSC)

RD---appears that many folks are moving this forward. In the wheelhouse for PB and SB. ESC cannot put out warrants.

CG---multifamily zoning, zoning bylaw reorganization, opt in SSC important. MOF will help with outreach and education by hosting info sessions. The bylaw is written, template by the state.

RD---will it make the fall warrant?

CG---yes, but outreach to stakeholders and other concerns is imperative.

DB---members of the Net Zero council that helped with NZ plan are stakeholders by profession.

CG---need to see what their awareness is of the SSC, do they support it, do they need more information, what are their concerns. Biotech labs had some concerns about how they would operate within the constraints of the code.

CR---we can post the link for the DOER information and the presentation by CG to our ESC website.

DB---does it need a 2/3 majority vote at TM?

CG---thinks just simple majority but will check.

7. JGMS Composting Pilot and Lane School Food Sharing Cart

RD---asked how to volunteer.

Erin Door thanked facilities, food service and Emily Prince for helping to get the program going. At Lane school, the cart is available for third graders to drop off any unopened food that they don't want onto a cart, other students can come and take the food they want. Rollout started May 11, 2023, approximately 50 items put on the cart with 75% retrieved and eaten, day 2 served a bag of carrots and 100 items



were left with 50% taken and eaten. Items are being tracked. Most returned foods, strawberry yogurt and bagged carrots.

At JGMS, rollout for Gr 6 & 7, 600 students. Average of 110lbs/day of trash thrown out  
Introduced composting of food waste

Day 1---5/17/2023		Day 2---5/18/2023	
Food waste	Trash	Food Waste	Trash
70 lbs	20 lbs	92 lbs	17 lbs
Reduced trash by 75%		reduced trash by 82%	

Food waste composed of liquid and solid food waste  
Liquid about 30 lbs  
Solid food about 21-47 lbs

Some leftovers go into the nursing office to be used by students who need a snack, but they are also considering other options for leftover food. In Lexington, they have a fridge in the hallway so kids can take items on their way out to a bus, or sports, or home. The program is using volunteers but will not be sustainable for the long term.

DB---use of Styrofoam trays. Yes, still using but JGMS has dishwashers so we could use reusable trays, but there are not enough staff to do so now. Compostable trays cost twice as much. Styrofoam is low value plastic, no after market reuse for trays or fruit cups. PF noted that fruit cups can be made of compostable material. ED agrees there are ways to do better and schools that do this best are always looking at how to do better. Food services is its own department, Julie Carine, School Financial Director, how we do this is a top-down decision. If all 4 schools participate, we'd have 2600-2800 students able to participate.

RD---if not under school committee, how do they learn about it?

MF---because Julie is School Fin Dir, it eventually gets relayed to the School Comm.

Everybody was impressed by this successful launch and thanked.

#### 8. Ongoing status updates

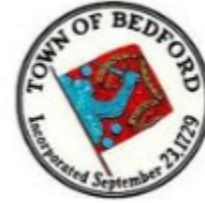
- a. Composting---CR, at Carlisle Road site, drop-off is now 45, Black Earth is at 350
- b. ldling---EP article in Bedford Citizen, next year plan to do composting competition, reached parents via article in BC, CR suggested getting a grant from the Cultural Council so that hard copies of winning signage could be made to be posted outside.
- c. CCA---EP reported CCA data through March is as follows:
  - Residential - 3,714
  - Bedford Local Green - 3,373
  - Bedford 50% - 24
  - Bedford 100% - 148

RD---WBUR report about electric use w/o any comment about CCA

RS---also heard radio broadcast and said they reference fraud, and that late in the report they mentioned a link to CCA

RD---asked when new rates come out (referring to rates by Eversource)

MF---also heard report but didn't anything about CCA. Says we don't need to wait for new rates but to right up something now, reference WBUR article and explain why CCA is better. RD will draft something.



- d. Town buildings energy---TA says fence at Police dept will be down next week. RS—reports status quo, transitioning from heating to cooling, no gas, but electricity will jump up. TA---6-12 months and will show results of energy changes at Police Station, look at trending for energy consumption, last few months, relying on electric boiler w/o back up.
- e. Multitown Gas Leaks---CR was unable to attend this month's meeting. But they were going to talk about Green Hydrogen <https://www.gastransitionallies.org/hydrogen-report> and the bills in the house and senate [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G2YfmbgkPJlb-ILsvoRqm0Yx\\_T2oDbPL/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G2YfmbgkPJlb-ILsvoRqm0Yx_T2oDbPL/view) <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S2092>

f. no webinars

9. Future topics for ESC

- RD---
  - A. can MAPC help us with recruiting for ESM?
  - B. change job description to be more in line with the salary
  - C. flexibility of budget items

MF---responds saying she isn't sure, may depend on what dept the item is in, can't hire a consultant, she'll ask about other options.

PF---how can we get some sustainability work done, consider hiring an entry level person and train them through work with Facilities and DPW.

MF---suggests hire part time as a temporary stop gap, we could make recommendations to the SB. RD, EP, and PF will work on a letter to SB re changes.

Cars and Coffee—either first or second weekend in June, CR and DB will work on it.

Two members retiring—CR and JS. MF says volunteer coordinating committee sends names to the SB, there may be people interested, said Chair could ask if the VCC if there are any names on the list.

RD---commented to Margot about ESC voting to support forum for Major Massport/Hanscom Private Jet Facilities Expansion. MF agrees that Forum looks educational. She commented that it's an interesting issue—area towns coming together to have a discussion. We could send a letter to the SB and send comments to HATS. PF volunteered to write a statement.

RD---requested agenda items for next time.

For website, post links for Specialized Stretch Code and anti-idling

RS---moved to adjourn.

CR---seconded

Vote---7-0-0.

Adjourned: 9:18 pm