



**Energy & Sustainability Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 14, 2022**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Remote Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

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

Liaisons:

Town Committees: Chris Gittins (Planning Board)

Town Staff: Taissir Alani, (*Director of Facilities and Zoom host*), Bedford TV (*meeting recording for later broadcast*)

Visitors: Erin Dorr, Brendan Welch, Mike Rosenberg, Robin Steele; absent Dan Bostwick

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. Five members being present, Emily then proceeded with the published agenda for the meeting.

1. **Public Comment** – No members from the public were interested to speak.
2. **Carlisle Road Bedford** – Brian DeVellis of DeVellis Consulting Group, a developer/manager/owner of residential and recreational building projects, made a presentation to the ESC concerning its proposed 50-acre, two-parcel residential cluster development project on Carlisle Road. Dan has been or will be making presentations on this project to other relevant Town committees and neighborhood meetings as well in an effort to make this a public/private “LIP” (Local Initiative Program) process. The project would include mixed housing units with “walkable” streets, a community center, a green, solar rooftops and geo-thermal possibilities. Brian stressed that they planned to incorporate as many green energy features as possible and would strive to keep energy costs low.
  - Bob asked if the project would connect to existing sidewalks and Brian indicated that that is already incorporated into its plans.
  - Chris R. asked about geo-thermal possibilities and Brian replied that they are still in the early stages but exploring it.
  - Chris R. asked about the project’s efforts to meet the Town’s 25% affordable housing requirements. Brian responded that they hoped to be a “Friendly 40B”



project to ensure meeting these requirements and planned to work with the Town on this, noting that they expected to offer “a little bit of everything” in housing options, but not everything would be “affordable,” as defined.

- Chris R. indicated a concern that the project might result in a significant influx of children that might be difficult for the Town’s schools to handle given present capacities. Brian replied that they were working closely with the Town on such community issues. Chris G. added that current school enrollment projections are actually down slightly.
- Emily asked about EV stations and Brian indicated that they have already contracted for them.

- 3. Energy and Sustainability Manager** – Emily reported that the job has been posted and applications have started coming in. The Town Manager hopes to start interviews in August.
- 4. BARC Update** – Chris R. gave an update on the recent tree removals. She also noted observing some trees dying in the center of the Town, but assumed this was the result of ash tree or other tree disease(s).
- 5. EV Charging Stations** – Taissir noted that there continued to be higher usage at the Depot EV stations and that the power is being upgraded at the Police Station EV stations. DPW is also finalizing plans for private usage of its EV stations.
  - Chris R. asked how many EV vehicles does the Town own. Taissir noted it was a good question and he would look into it and let ESC know.
- 6. Composting** – Chris R. reported that the composting survey had closed at the end of June and the initial analysis of it was encouraging. She noted that the Town schools are exploring ways to reduce kitchen and cafeteria food waste, including having more dishwashing rather than using disposable plates and utensils. She also suggested ESC working with the Mothers Out Front composting task force. Finally, she noted that Black Earth participation was slightly up.
- 7. Community Choice Aggregation** -- Emily provided the latest update on CCA subscriber numbers (from May), all of which reflected increases, as well as the benefits to subscribers in terms of rates/KWH. In particular, there are a total of 4,297 households participating in the program (a nice increase from last month), of which 136 of those households are at 100% renewable power, 18 of those households are at 50% renewable power, and 123 of those households are on Bedford Basic. There was a CCA sign promotion in June and may be another one in September.
  - Bob asked whether it was permissible to contact CCA subscribers to consider upgrades. Emily said she would look into this, as well as consider writing letters to the editor in support of CCA.



**8. Multi-Town Gas Leaks** – No updates.

**9. Legislative Updates** – No updates.

**10. Minuteman Bike Path Extension** -- Bob reported that ESC had voted to support the extension, but suggested there should be further discussion of it before the Special Town Meeting in November. He also reported on the BARC study on tree impact, noting relatively insignificant impact on certain wider sections; more so on narrower sections. Bob then asked Margot about the Select Board’s efforts in outreach events relating to the extension and she encouraged ESC to participate in these events and to take and publicize its position. After further discussion, it was decided that, at its next meeting, ESC should further discuss its position and how to best time that with outreach events.

**11. Town Buildings** – Taissir reported on Town buildings, noting that the Police Station is now about 60% complete and DPW will be focusing on making it ready to meet Net Zero goals. DPW is also working on NET Zero design for the Public Library.

**12. Net Zero** – John discussed a recent Zoom meeting that Dan Bostwick had organized with John and Carrie Sarno, a former ESC member and former program manager with Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (“NEEP”), about establishing an energy use disclosure by-law or ordinance for the Town. ESC had begun considering this project several years ago but it had been halted by the pandemic, so the idea is to move it forward again. The basic idea is to implement Town legislation that would, in the first instance, require reporting of energy usage both by Town and commercial entities in the Town. Ultimately, however, the legislation would set usage requirements that would have to be met by the respective entities. John explained that, as he understood it, moving such a project along would be a major effort that required three components. First, there is the need to collect current energy usage information. (He added that the Town already does this, as do three of its largest private entities: the VA Hospital, Middlesex Community College and Mitre.) Second, the legislation must be drafted. And, while other towns, such as Cambridge and Newton, already have such legislation in place, it is very much “town-specific,” dependent on various factors such as the types and sizes of commercial entities in the town and the town’s general political approach to encouraging development vs. energy conservation, etc. And third, there are a great number of “constituencies” that must be brought in to developing -- and, ideally, buying in – to such an ordinance, particularly the Select Board (which would either enact it or propose it to a Town Meeting), the Town’s Economic Development



Director and various Town committees and neighborhood groups. In this regard, the owners of private entities – who might not necessarily be residents of the Town – would obviously have to be included. So, too – and possibly leading the project – would be the Town’s Energy and Sustainability Manager once he or she is hired. John concluded that the project would necessarily require a good deal of technical and other professional expertise. In this regard, Carrie noted that, in her current position as a Vice President of ClearlyEnergy, she does provide such services and felt it appropriate to note this fact to Dan and John upfront in the interests of full disclosure. In any event, ESC has neither the authority nor the funding to engage such a consultant, which would presumably have to be undertaken by the Select Board and/or via a Town Meeting. But that engagement would likely have to be secured before the project can move too far forward.

ESC indicated enthusiasm for the project and, at John’s suggestion, and if Dan agrees, he and Dan will reach out to Carrie again and ask her (without retaining her) how such a project could best be commenced, especially since the three aspects seem so interrelated, and then report back to ESC.

**13. Car Idling/Safe Routes to School** – Emily has been in touch with Judy Crocker of the anti-idling campaign group and plans to join its quarterly meetings.

- Chris G. asked whether the Bike Path Extension was being addressed by the Town’s Safe Routes to School program and Margot confirmed that it was.

**14. Webpage Review** – A brief discussion as to the new Town contact for webpages, but no updates.

**15. New Business** – Emily noted that there is a new applicant for ESC and hopes he/she will be interviewed by the Select Board in August. Chris R. asked about electrifying the Town’s school buses and Taissir reported that he and Erin Dorr had met with the owner of Bedford Charter and he was very receptive to incorporating EV’s into the fleet.

**16. FY 2023 Chairperson** – Emily explained about the usual rotation of Town committee chairpersons and invited ESC members to reach out to her if they were interested in the position. A brief discussion of chairperson rotation ensued.

**17. August Meeting** – Emily indicated that she would send out a Doodle poll to set the date of the August meeting. A brief discussion then ensued about remote, hybrid and in-person meetings generally. Margot explained that Town committee meeting requirements would primarily depend on State legislation, which was currently unsettled. She added that, while hybrid meetings were possible, they were more



complicated for various reasons than either entirely remote or entirely in-person meetings. Emily indicated that the Doodle poll would allow ESC members to indicate preference for type of meeting, subject to State legislation

- 18. Approve June Meeting Minutes** - Bob moved to approve the June minutes, Chris R. seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 5-0-0.
- 19. Adjournment** -- Bob moved to adjourn at 8:48 pm. Chris R. seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 5-0-0.