



Energy & Sustainability Committee
Monday, July 31, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting Minutes – approved on 10/19/2023

Committee Attendance – Dan Bostwick, Bob Dorer (chair), Patricia Fabian (minute taker), Margot Fleischman, and Emily Prince

1. Call to Order and Remote Meeting Disclaimer
2. Public Comment – up to 3 minutes per commenter
Karen Willson– library electrification
Specialized energy code – planning forum for October, email if we want to be part of planning
Sustainability and energy manager – posting should remain in case by word of mouth
Request to send in writing
3. Town Recycling – Operational Updates, Long Term Expansion Plans and Service Improvements via the new Waste Wizard Tool – Liz Antanavica, Trash & Recycling Administrator (if available – otherwise will be postponed to a future date)
Standing conflict on Mondays. Can hopefully attend at next meeting.
4. Update on Plans for Adoption of Specialized Energy Code (SEC) via a Town Meeting warrant article
Select board voted to put on fall warrant article for town meeting in November 2023
Aug 3rd extra select board meeting. Dan presenting about SEC. Dan Bostwick will be briefing.
DB reviewed his presentation. Educational opportunity now that Select Board voted to put on warrant. General discussion and comments on presentation.
CG – Question. Planning board has application at planning board now. Looked for standards in specialized energy code. Mixed use seemed to be classified as commercial according to assessors.
MF - cost will be on people’s minds. Will email some nice slides from DOER (Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources) presentation. There is a slide with a table of components. Showing potentially higher construction but overall savings. Suggests trying to reference state presentation. 20 min in, cost to building, rebates, cost to home buyer, energy savings, annual net.
MF - Public hearing – purpose is hearing the public. Could have a presentation or brief intro and then open to public. You aren’t supposed to make a change without listening to



people's opinion. Suggested DB reach out to select board chair (Bopha) to ask if presentation to inform is possible.

MF – Forums – offer made from DOER folks to do public forums in the past. If that is available then we should take it up so we can ride on the state reputation.

Date for public hearing not set yet, usually in the Fall.

CG – DOE YouTube channel Better Buildings with material from 2 years ago addressing construction and operating costs in NY. He will find and forward the link

5. Bedford Energy & Sustainability Manager recruitment status – the position appears to have been removed from the town website

We don't have an update since Taissir (Facilities Director) left and Sarah (Town Manager) left.

BD – general frustration at disappearance. Should we advocate for reposting?

EP - As of June Colleen had reported that it would continue to be posted on town website and could be recruited. EP reported that there haven't been any second round interviews, she sits on hiring committee. As of last conversation, Colleen also said they wouldn't make any changes to description until new town manager arrived.

BD – ESC should follow up and ask what changed, ask for update.

CG – who has authority to open/close position?

MF – town manager has authority. Currently acting town manager would do it. She wasn't aware it was taken down. Will ask acting town manager.

EP & MF will give an update at the next meeting

6. Update on library HVAC bid process and concern over indications the Town maybe be considering reverting to use of fossil fuels for heat in HVAC update bid specs contrary to the Town's Energy Policy – discussion of possible ESC input to the Select Board Articles in Bedford Citizen as well as MOF.

BD asked Ron for update.

Ron- Not backing up on goals. Scale back project if no funds available. In talking with administration want to keep NetZero goals in place. Have asked for another estimate with intention to go to special town meeting to get more funding so start project in spring and get it done under town guidelines. Facilities would like to do that and thinks the town will support.

DB – Is there anything this committee can do to help with that?

Ron – Nothing at this point. Waiting for bids but keeping intention to stay electric.

BD offered ESC committee to attend any meeting necessary to support additional funding approval



CG – also liaison for community preservation. Asked if potentially could ask for CP funds.

Ron – all options on the table. Facilities department is fully behind these goals.

MF – concern about trying to balance keeping library open with fragile HVAC system. Time vs. money, need to find a timely solution to keep library open and not wait until it fails and we have to close the library. Having to wait until Fall town meeting to vote for funds is in opposition to if things fail and the library has to close. Lots of demand

BD – if one went back to redesign gas boilers that would be even more time because current design is electric.

Ron – someone could ask, what if we just replace as is?

MF – of all options redesign is the worst option. From climate and timing, redesign would not be supportable.

BD – in conclusion ESC should stay vigilant and support keeping current redesign that is Netzero.

How do they find out about grants and new funding? They get emails all the time.

Town accountant would have to sign off that we have funds. After town meeting if there is a grant that would be great, but grant timing doesn't line up with timing of making a decision and appropriating funds.

7. Ongoing status updates:

a. **Composting & Diversion initiatives** – pending for next meeting. EP will take that over. Black Earth ~350 households subscribed. Eva's little kitchen is a commercial composter. Should try to feature.

b. **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)** – no updates from Good Energy. There was a reduction in basic rates that EverSource charges, CCA rate is still lower. Will have to be competed again in 2024. First contract 2018-2021, current contract 2021-2024. Can bid whenever. Can ask Good Energy to come and brief us around when to start looking.

Ron gets emails from Constellation – municipal power options

BD will get the timeline.

MF, Teissir and town manager used to get bids.

c. **Town buildings energy efficiency projects**

Ron update – police station running great. In closeout phase of the project.

Electric boiler report, performing as expected. Fire station, met with reps from Eversource and discussed energy efficiency initiatives. Summer schools are mostly turned off. July was hot and it will be reflected in bills.

d. **Neighboring towns and regional projects and programs of interest**



- Hanscom Field Private/Executive Jet Hanger and Servicing Proposed Expansion – status of draft letter no update on state reviewing environmental items.
 - Other BD reported that MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council) grant is open for Climate resilience municipal grants is now open. Ron reported that Erin was helping keep an eye on grants.
- e. Webinars and other meetings or information of potential interest to the committee
8. Future topics for the ESC
Town recycling. Molly Haskell (BARC – Bedford Arbor Resources Committee) asked to present.
9. June 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes - review and approval
Patricia motioned, Margot seconded. 5-0-0
10. Continued remote meetings or move to in-person meetings discussion
BD asked about format
EP & MF clarifying that we have to be fully in person or fully remote.
Can once in a while do in person.
MF – BAC (Bicycle Advisory Committee) and TC (Transportation Advisory Committee) meet quarterly in person, all other meetings remote.
Conclusion: ESC likely will meet on zoom, but sometimes in person. August will be zoom and we can think about format moving forward.
11. Review of proposed committee webpage updates and proposed agenda items for ESC August meeting
August meeting will be to support Specialized Code. Checked that there would be enough people available on August 17th. There seems to be a quorum.
12. Adjourn
Patricia moved to adjourn. Dan seconded. 5-0-0
The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.