Energy Climate Action Committee Meeting
Minutes – 5/10/2022

Virtual Meeting
Meeting Start: 7:00pm
Members Present: Michael DeChiara (Chair), Leslie Cerier, Miriam DeFant, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard, Graeme Sephton, Zoe Weizenbaum
Members Absent: none
Visitors: Henry Geddes

1. Household energy survey discussion facilitated by Gail.
   The survey has been tested, tweaked and is ready to run.
   It will be online and accessible via the Town website.
   We will post it via "Town announce" email and on the Town website and via NextDoor Shutesbury and announce it at Town Meeting, with hard copy version available on request. It will be accessible online for residents to complete for three weeks.

2. Graeme summarized his research about municipal solar examples in Massachusetts.
   It appears that most towns are just like Shutesbury with less than 100 kW total of municipal PV panels. Some few towns also have a few hundred kilowatts from wind turbines. (For comparison, our town would need to have at least 10MW* of solar to cover the whole town's current usage.) In their 2021 report, Medford "committed to zero carbon by 2050"!
   Many towns are improving their renewable electricity usage profile via "green" options in their municipal aggregation programs. That is because many households, when given the option, choose to pay a little more by choosing a "greener" mix.

3. There was a general discussion about other potentially relevant ECAC subject areas. We could provide resources and/or educational opportunities to the town.
   We brainstormed a brief list:
   Lifestyle, food, renovating buildings, insulating buildings (Mass Save), updating an earlier "town skills" inventory.

4. Everyone on the committee indicated they are willing to be reappointed for another term commencing in June. **Michael will notify Select Board.**

5. **Gail** is willing to be point person for archiving on our ECAC website and providing links to resources and any presentation material, minutes, etc.

6. Nate facilitated a further discussion on municipal aggregation.
   Motion. Gail moved and Graeme seconded, that; "Nate be assigned the task of researching what are the aggregation possibilities and choices for Shutesbury. And then to draft a program proposal for us to review."

Discussion. We are particularly interested to know if the renewable choices can distinguish environmental quality and size of the sources.
Vote: Unanimous; Gail-Aye, Graeme-Aye, Leslie-Aye, Michael-Aye, Miriam-Aye, Nate-Aye, Zoe-Aye.
Nate is willing to research those details and draft a proposal or program outline for the ECAC to review at a future meeting.

7. The **next meeting** will be Tuesday, May 31 at 7 PM

8. **Motion**. Graeme moved, Leslie seconded; "To accept the minutes of the 4/26/22 meeting, as submitted by Gail."

   Discussion. Leslie suggested that ECAC should take potential environmental damage into account when considering the type of solar installation it recommends.

   Vote: Unanimous; Gail-Aye, Graeme-Aye, Leslie-Aye, Michael-Aye, Miriam-Aye, Nate-Aye, Zoe-Aye.

9. **Motion**. Leslie moved, Gail seconded "motion to adjourn".
   Vote: Unanimous; Gail-Aye, Graeme-Aye, Leslie-Aye, Michael-Aye, Miriam-Aye, Nate-Aye, Zoe-Aye.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25pm
Respectfully submitted by Graeme Sephton

*Footnote: Rough first calculation of current town power requirements if it was 100% PV source:

Average house: about 11kW (a ballpark estimate)
~850 residence, therefore 850 x 11kW = 9.4 MW
Plus ~150 kW for school and ~50 kW for Town Hall, DPW etc.
Ballpark total 10 MW
(This does not cover the additional electric usage trend for whole-house heat pumps and electric vehicle charging.