

Energy Climate Action Committee Meeting  
Minutes – 08/02/2022  
*Virtual Meeting*

**Meeting called to order by chair:** 7:04pm

**Members Present:** Leslie Cerier, Michael DeChiara (Chair), Miriam Defant, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard, Graeme Sephton, Zoe Weizenbaum

**Guest:** Henry Geddes

**Public comments:**

**Minutes** of May 31, 2022 (Leslie) not yet ready for review.

**Review minutes** of July 12, 2022 (Nate). Approval was moved and seconded. Motion carried unanimously with 6 ayes: Cerier, DeChaira, Defant, Fleischaker, Heard, Weizenbaum. (Sephton was not present at the meeting so did not vote.)

**Updates/Continuing items**

**Report on Community Choice Aggregation presented to Select Board meeting July 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Nate: presentation was well received. SB wanted time to review slide deck and research further.

Gail reported discussion of CCA at this evening's SB meeting (SB Chair absent) with these questions and concerns: 1) where in the process do the several energy source options get defined? And by whom? 2) will the selected vendor accept Fuel Assistance provisions currently in place with National Grid? 3) ECAC's recommendations in defining vendor contract options "should not limit/exclude particular land use supporting energy source," e.g., in defining solar source, should not exclude agricultural or forested land.

Nate to check with consultant as to process: are options specified at the Town Meeting vote? Michael, Nate, and Gail to research SB questions and present responses at a future SB meeting.

Miriam & Nate: ECAC should hold public forum(s) before Special Town Meeting (where Warrant article will be voted on). Post flyers around town and announce on webpage for outreach.

**Additional information for ARPA funds request (Michael)**

The Town's HMP/MVP grant request was turned down, which means there is no money in the pipeline for stormwater management engineering. Michael will try to get a cost figure from Becky to submit for engineering request.

PV Squared charges \$2,000 per site for 'first-level assessment' of rooftop solar, including roof support system, etc. We could use that figure in request for ARPA funding of assessment of our municipal buildings.

How to derive a figure for grant-writing? Grants in past have been written by committee members (volunteers).

**Designation of liaisons to town committees concerning HMP/MVP activities (Michael)**

Committee liaisons are intended to raise awareness among members of "responsible committee" designated in MVP, HMP, and Open Space and Recreation Plan – both for specific action items as well as how to think about the various issues over the long range.

**Report from August 8<sup>th</sup> SB meeting re MEI access request (Gail)**

The Select Board approved a letter to be sent to the Green Communities Regional Coordinator authorizing read-only access to the MassEnergyInsight data reports.

**Sustainable Development Goals and Communicating Sustainability** (Henry Geddes)

Decreasing number of people who deny (human causation of) climate change, despite efforts by the fuel industry. There are opportunities to build support for actions to take in prevention and/or mitigation, including surveys, but survey-takers are self-selected, so how to mobilize people even to think about this?

Discussion:

Zoe, to ECAC members: what fueled your interest in these issues? Responses included personal experience with particular books and lectures, online video presentations, taking public action (e.g., GreenPeace), time working on organic sustainable farms.

Nate: is four-alarm fire narration enlightening, or is it debilitating?

Henry: what's the message? who's the messenger, influencer? Know your audience, know the context, and make a good case in terms and interests of the person being addressed.

Michael: that's what we need to apply to our campaign for CCA: Why are we proposing this action? What's the context? What are the expected consequences?

**Next meeting:** August 23, 2022.

**Motion to adjourn** moved by Sephton, seconded by Cerier at 8:40pm. Motion carried unanimously with 6 ayes: Cerier, DeChaira, Fleischaker, Heard, Sephton, Weizenbaum (Defant had left earlier).

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Fleischaker