

## **Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting**

January 2, 2024  
(approved 1/09/24)  
*Virtual Meeting*

Michael called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm

Committee Members Present: Michael DeChiara, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard, Isaac Goldstein

Committee Members Absent: Miriam DeFant

Others Committees: Select Board - Rita Farrell, Eric Stocker, Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil. Becky Torres – Town Administrator

Public: Susie Mosher, Grace Bannasch, Matteo Pangallo, Steve Sullivan

### **Climate and Energy Oriented Procurement Policy**

Michael introduced ECAC's idea of Shutesbury developing a climate/energy related procurement policy. Nate explained that the origin of the concept was inspired by Amherst's statement regarding net zero procurement. Since any such policy would likely be approved by the Select Board rather than Town Meeting, and would impact other committees and town operations, ECAC wanted to bring it to the Select Board for consideration.

Becky indicated that while the town had a recycling procurement policy and guidance regarding toxic substances, there is no climate or energy procurement policy in place. Melissa encouraged the avoidance of mandatory language such as "must," "require," or "shall." Eric suggested that language could be softened to be "must consider". Michael clarified that ECAC was looking to establish intention rather than requirements regarding non-fossil fuel or energy efficient procurement.

It was agreed that ECAC would work on developing Shutesbury-specific language that could be recommended to the Select Board. The Select Board, in turn, would engage with other relevant committees such as Capital Planning and Finance Committee.

### **Specialized Stretch Code**

Michael introduced the idea of the Specialized Stretch Code. Noting that approval of this would need to be by Town Meeting, ECAC wanted to engage with the Select Board before offering a town-wide information session. Nate provided background and detail on the Specialized Stretch Code, which is an opt-in set of building codes that are more stringent in regards to energy efficiency and climate mitigation design. He noted that as a Green Community, Shutesbury was already required to meet the updated Jan. 2023 Stretch Code.

Becky shared that when approval of the original Stretch Code was approved 13 years ago, there was active opposition. Rita noted that times have changed in terms of climate and energy awareness.

Michael stated that the idea of hosting an informational session was to provide information on the current requirements as of Jan. 2023 (when they were instigated) and to share information

about the Opt-in Specialized Stretch code. Chris Mason, the Regional Green Communities Coordinator would present, along with a code expert. The information session would be used to gauge whether to bring this option to a Town Meeting vote. Rita suggested that in addition to the Stretch Code and Opt-in background, the informational session should include information about retrofitting and programs that might be available to assist with the cost of these.

It was agreed that Feb. 26 from 7:00-8:30pm would be the date for the informational session.

**Meeting Close**

Gail moved to adjourn the meeting; Nate seconded.

Vote to adjourn: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye, Isaac Goldstein – aye

Meeting Adjourned: 6:09 pm

*Respectfully submitted, Michael DiChiara*