

Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting
Minutes – 2/11/2025
[Approved 3/11/2025]
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 6:42PM

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

Committee Members Absent: None

Public: Bert Schwarz attended this meeting.

Recommendations for EV chargers

The committee discussed possible EV charger locations in preparation for making recommendations to the Select Board. Advantageous locations include Town Hall and the Elementary School. Second tier sites include DPW and the current, soon to be old, library. Unfortunately, the new library site isn't viable due to space constraints.

East Coast Renewables (ECR) will likely encourage the town to request a number of stations that we might need in the future rather than a smaller, more conservative number that would only meet current needs.

The committee believes we are ready to present information to the Select Board (SB) along with our recommendation to move forward with ECR's help. Michael will investigate possible dates when we could present to SB.

Planning for Community Choice Aggregation

Michael and Nate attended SB meeting on January 28 where they fielded questions about the aggregation plan Colonial Power Group had developed for the town. SB voted to post the plan for public comment. Gail posted the plan to Shutesbury.org and Nate delivered hard copies to Town Hall and the Library. The public comment period formally began on February 3 and will end March 7.

Nate will reach out to Colonial to request a timeline on next steps and when we will need to make various decisions.

Climate Leader Communities

The committee planned for the Climate Leader Communities public hearing and forum. March 17 is the best day for the committee. Chris Mason has offered to present on the Specialized Opt-in Stretch Code and Nate will contact Chris to confirm the date. Michael will frame the discussion and hand things over to Chris. Since the Specialized Opt-in Stretch Code vote is for a bylaw, that portion of the meeting will be held as a formal public hearing. Roughly, the agenda would be as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Climate Leader Communities Program and It's Elements (Michael)
3. Climate Leader Program (Chris)
4. Opt-in Stretch Code Public Hearing
5. Q&A from community members on CLP
6. End

To comply with public hearing requirements, a Town Announce will go out on the week of March 3rd. We'll also take out a public notice, which Matteo is willing to do. The public notice needs to go out two weeks before the event.

ECAC Website

The committee discussed the structure and content of the web page to better support our goal of public outreach. Suggestions included rephrasing technical material to make it easier to understand.

Vote on new member recommendation

The committee was unanimous in its support of Bert Schwarz joining ECAC.

Gail moved to recommend Bert to SB. Nate seconded. Vote to recommend Bert: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Isaac Goldstein, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye

Next date

March 11 is the date of the next ECAC meeting.

Minutes

Isaac moved to approve the minutes from January 14. Nate seconded. Vote to approve minutes: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Isaac Goldstein, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye aye

Close

Gail moved to adjourn the meeting; Isaac seconded. Vote to adjourn: Michael DeChiara, Aye; Gail Fleischaker, Aye; Isaac Goldstein, Aye; Nate Heard, Aye

Respectfully submitted, Nate Heard