



Clean Energy Future Committee Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2023

8:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid In-person / Remote Meeting

Members Present:

- In Person: David Morgan and Talia Fox
- Remote: Coralie Cooper, Eric Helmuth, James DiTullio, Marc Breslow, Nellie Aikenhead, Pasi Miettinen, Ryan Katofsky (as Chair), Shelly Dein

Members Absent: Jim Feeney, Amos Meeks

Also attending: Bruce Moulton, Gene Benson, Jacob Glickel, Patrick Hanlon

R. Katofsky convened the meeting at 8:15 am. R. Katofsky read a brief statement noting the legislation that permits virtual meetings.

1. Reminders re: Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Meeting Pilot

- If there is a technical failure, we will try to relaunch the meeting three times
- If we are unable to relaunch and there are more than 20 minutes left in the meeting, the CEFC will reconvene the following Friday
- If there are fewer than 20 minutes left, the CEFC will carry the remaining agenda items forward to next meeting
- Please fill out the hybrid meeting survey; E. Helmuth noted – very useful to Committee, whether positive or negative

2. Review and Approve 1/20/2023 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the January 20, 2023, meeting. D. Morgan noted that might need a time stamp when people join meeting late – he came in about ½ hour before meeting ended. One minor edit made. D. Morgan moved to approve and S. Dein seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the January 20th meeting minutes with a show of hands; P. Miettinen abstained because he was not present at the meeting.

3. Sustainability Updates

Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration Project:

- T. Fox: Town submitted a comment letter on Fossil Free Demo Program submitted to DOER; came from Town Manager, not the CEFC
- R. Katofsky: noted that the comments were largely procedural in nature
- T. Fox agreed, especially around issues of timing
- P. Hanlon: major items of concern for other towns include how major renovations are defined, concerns around gas cooking, and the lack of a procedure for

waivers/exceptions to the bylaw. Town bylaws allow some exceptions but there is no equivalent safety valve in the State's model pilot bylaw. DOER provided feedback on these concerns, and some towns are bringing revisions to their bylaws to Town Meeting in the spring and are concerned about the lack of guidance.

- T. Fox: Arlington has decided not to bring this to vote in the spring, so we have time to see how things shake out.

Electrify Arlington

- T. Fox: heat pump coaching going well, 70 inquiries, moving through the list; continuing to attend events – Heights Festival in June, EcoFest activities, Heat Pump 101 class @ ACE on March 7; also looking into small grants.
- P. Miettinen: mentioned coming into A/C season; April/May key A/C replacement time; great time to encourage replacement of condensers with heat pumps

Electrification and Air Quality Master Plan:

- T. Fox: six school study to understand how we can retrofit existing fossil fuel systems with electric alternatives; plan is finished, has been presented to select representatives from a few committees; it will be a public document; goal is to get to Net Zero in school buildings
- R. Katofsky: emphasized that the report is a jumping off point, provides a lot of info and makes it clear things will take a while; getting to point where some schools are coming up to equipment replacement time; need to figure out how it works and where funds will come from
- C. Cooper: ask if schools are representative of “institutional buildings” in general or is there no generalizing?
- R. Katofsky: maybe can't generalize, schools have more land and commercial building stock probably more varied than schools

Gas Leaks

- D. Morgan: Update from gas leaks task force – the resolution approved by the CEFC will be brought to Select Board in March; would still like to get funding for testing in-home appliances for gas leaks

4. Opt-In Specialized Energy Stretch Code Campaign Needs & Next Steps

- P. Hanlon: had the developers forum 2/15; well attended, 30 contractors/builders
 - General sense was business-like; people just wanted to know what they need to do.
 - T. Fox gave great overview; Mike Ciampa translated it into code; John Barrows did presentation on a low HERS score in new (John Carney) building on Palmer St and outlined the changes that were made from a similar building built the previous year; Nellie presented available subsidies and tax credits
 - March 1 forum next major step; outstanding panel; major presenter is Ellen Watts, who was instrumental in developing Stretch Code and who has been doing high performance buildings as a career; also on panel are Aaron Gunderson, Executive Director of Passive House Massachusetts; Jeff Geisinger from Utile, who is terrific at understanding the market; Neal Mongold a member of Affordable Housing Task Force, and a Board Member Housing Corporation of Arlington
 - Ian Finlayson will answer questions; T. Fox will be M.C.

- Should be a really good program; please encourage TM members to attend, they have been informed that it will be recorded; can work with ACMi to provide parts for future precinct meetings; need Precinct Captains in 9, 13, and 18
- Next thing after the panel discussion is a presentation to Select Board, not sure exactly when; important for CEFC to show up for that; helpful to make remarks and also to send letters, which don't take up as much time as verbal comments at a public meeting
- Also working on broader outreach including to affordable housing communities to inform and generate support
- Get in touch w P. Hanlon, B. Moulton, or Anne Wright if interested in assisting.

5. CEFC Priorities and Working Groups

- R. Katofsky:
 - Time to revisit our prioritization list; last worked on this a couple of years ago; have completed action items both on and not on the list (such as warrant article about building new foundations on non-conforming lots)
 - Quick history: Initial priorities identified by NZAP (Net Zero Action Plan) Implementation working group
 - Electrify Arlington
 - Net-Zero Opt-in Stretch Code – ongoing
 - C-PACE
 - Connect Arlington Plan released
 - EV Education
 - Zero Emissions Fleet Policy
 - ACE Default minimum in most recent solicitation increased; that was approved by Select Board
 - Other ongoing activities
 - HDC design guidelines – ongoing
 - Gas leak task force, D. Morgan is managing
 - Retrofitting town buildings for electrification; Electrification Master Plan completed
 - Other activities as opportunities arise (e.g., MBTA Communities)
 - Potential new activities since prioritization was established
 - Town's electric supply – contract ending end of 2024
 - C. Cooper asked was the 10-municipality fossil fuel ban pilot program on the list; R. Katofsky said it wasn't on the initial list, but is an ongoing activity; T. Fox said the pilot program is a continuation of the fossil fuel ban action item
 - Deep energy retrofit campaign – CEFC has not dug into that
- R. Katofsky: Propose to reconvene working group for establishing priorities, could be different from or add people to the last task force, would like to reinvigorate small teams to work on individual items. Also asked for feedback on priorities:
 - G. Benson: Redevelopment board will be drafting a warrant article for Fall Special TM to change zoning to bring it into compliance with the multifamily zoning requirement; would be great if CEFC was ready to

support this article, which is needed to qualify for the Fossil Fuel Ban pilot program

- S. Dein: opportunities to do more publicity about unfolding programs, such as tax credits and generous upcoming rebate programs that are not yet drafted
- M. Breslow: several ideas to share; pilots going on in several places to put ground source heat pump loops into gas trenches – could Arlington join in? Also wondering if we could do more with transportation, for example, installing more charging stations in town and/or do anything about mass transit in town
- R. Katofsky: we have those items in our Action Plan, including the ground source heat pump loop placement and EV charging; and in fact already have EV fast charging stations behind Bank of America
- T. Fox: We will have a new transportation planner coming on board, interviewing now, will be a member of the CEFC
- J. Glickel: we could do a lot to promote e-bikes as an alternative form of transport; also thinking we should be measuring how the CEFC work is or isn't impacting community greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- T. Fox: working with Bentley students to do an update on our greenhouse gas inventory, using MAPC data; because of data availability, it will be for the year 2020; confirmed that group is getting whole town data from Eversource
- T. Fox: would like to see CEFC members taking ownership of the action items, perhaps by stepping up to take a leadership role; expectation is that members are coming to the monthly meetings and also participating actively outside of the meetings
- S. Dein: on issue of transportation, MBTA important player but dysfunctional organization; how is town engaging with MBTA and encouraging change? Important priority.
- T. Fox: the future Transportation Planners role will include a lot of engagement with MBTA
- R. Katofsky: helpful to get a subset of the committee together to reactivate the prioritization process. P. Miettinen, M. Breslow, G. Benson, volunteered, also R. Katofsky and T. Fox will participate; will report back to CEFC at March meeting

6. Confirm Next Meeting Date March 24, 2023

Talia will not be present in person; will coordinate with David to do hybrid

7. Other Items

- B. Moulton: will we address deep energy retrofit at a future meeting?
- R. Katofsky: is an action item in the plan; committee will consider as part of re-prioritization
- P. Hanlon: Anne Wright will be a tremendous resource, she has spent a huge amount of time working on deep energy retrofits.

S. Dein moved to end the meeting and D. Morgan seconded. Unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:36am.

Submitted by Nellie Aikenhead