

Commission for Energy Use and Climate Change

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2017

Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA

Attendees:

Hodge, Joshua – Commissioner

Johnston, Eliza – Commissioner

Moore, Stephen – Commissioner

Sellers-Garcia, Oliver – (member ex-officio) Director of Office of Sustainability and Environment

Garrett Andersen

Jessica Begans

Ramon Bueno

Bonnie Cohen

Malcolm Cummings

Isabel Kaubisch

Melissa Lowitz

Anthony Lucivero

Mary Mangan

Bob Massie

Paola Massou

Michelle Melton

Greg Nadeau

Jocelyn Newhouse

Anne Tate

Andrea Yoder

Review and adopt the minutes from the January 11, 2017 meeting

- Approved

Somerville High School net-zero-ready planning

- Capital Projects Dept. putting together a meeting to brainstorm how to enhance environmental improvement of the high school plan (will include CEUCC members plus other invitees)
 - i.e. how to make High School Net-Zero Ready
 - Not redoing green charrette
 - Will be an opportunity for CEUCC to ask questions
 - Need to look at viability of transitioning from nat gas heat to alternatives such as all-electric and geothermal heating
- Capital Projects Dept. would need to go to Board of Aldermen to get funding for outputs of meeting with CEUCC (after MSBA meeting vote)
- Feb. 15th - MSBA meeting (vote will occur re: go/no go for high school)
- Commission's goals were summarized in green charrette:
 - Net-zero ready
 - No daytime lighting

- Minimal maintenance burden
- Shared resources among classrooms
- Consider all-electric HVAC
- Heat recovery and/or CHP
- Maximum insulation
- Provide storage/backup to community facilities
- Green roofs and walls
- Tree planting and green infrastructure
- Urban agriculture spaces
- Stephen: we need an update from the architects on what environmental standard building is designed to meet (I.e. beyond LEED Silver status). He is not entirely sure what was submitted design-wise.
 - The architects for the new Somerville High School have previous experience developing a net-zero ready school building (MLK School in Cambridge).

Planning for 3/1 meeting with Mayor Curtatone

- CEUCC Commissioners meeting with mayor on March 1st
- Oliver: recommends using the time to pitch forward-looking topics.
- Topics considered include:
 - Commissioners should consider their “top three priorities” for the meeting
 - Discuss Mass RPS and Exec Order 569
 - Advise Mayor on Mass RPS bill?
 - Introduce internal carbon price for Somerville? Look at other cities for examples of internal carbon pricing.
 - Should we ask mayor to lobby for new state RPS?
 - Should Somerville join the 100 Resilient Cities project? (Rockefeller Foundation pioneered project “100RC”)
- Consider making Mayor aware of carbon issues at high school ((yellow light wrt 2050 goals (E.g. heating system for the high school))
 - Oliver pointed out that the new high school will not be final large new building to be built in Somerville in the near future (E.g. public safety building Union Square due to be replaced soon), thus there is value in discussing “lessons learned” from the high school process with the mayor
 - Somerville’s old building stock represents opportunities from this perspective

Proposed bill for 100% MA RPS

- Bills [HD.3357](#) and [SD.1932](#), sponsored by State Rep. Marjorie Decker, D-Cambridge, State Rep. Sean Garballey, D-Arlington, and State Sen. Jamie Eldridge, D-Acton, which would require Massachusetts to get all of its electricity from renewable sources by 2035. All of its heating, transportation and other sectors would have to be powered by renewable energy by 2050.
- Questions re: transport standard (we need to look it up; does it include ethanol?)
 - Joshua: transport RPS is likely to be plug-in vehicles focused

- Consensus is that the transport RPS target, in particular, is a stretch
- We should encourage mayor to support any improvements to state-level RPS

State (EEA) activities on climate change and Executive Order No. 569

- Last September, Governor Charlie Baker issued [Executive Order No. 569](#) entitled “Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth.” The Order addresses a range of actions related to climate change, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, climate change resiliency and adaptation, and planning and assessment of climate change risks.
- Reminder: the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% from 1990 levels by 2050.
- State (EEA) is coming out with a municipal assistance program for hazard mitigation planning (includes standardized municipal CCVA planning)
- Concern was expressed about the Governor possible stalling on implementation.

April 2017 outreach and engagement events

- Hannah planning:
 - “SustainaVille Week” – between Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 28)
 - Big display at library re: climate change
 - Simplified version of carbon neutrality pathways presentation (main one at library; others at schools)
 - Booth at Clean-Up Day Barbeque (Earth Day this year)
 - Arts Council doing “Tiny Great Outdoors” at local park (will reference climate change)

Community Choice Aggregation

- The attorney who works for our broker (Good Energy) discovered that the DPU had already ruled on this topic (Cape Light case).
 - Eversource communities still on-hold
 - NationalGrid communities got their plans approved by the DPU last week
- Once its approved, we’ll have to move fast; Oliver: we need at least one public event
 - Brochures already ready
 - Every single ratepayer will get an opt-out letter
- Standard is 5% above (current) Mass RPS

Next steps on solar

- Big data analysis underway for SolarStat meeting (late February)
 - Will be presented at March CEUCC meeting
- Reviewed lead source information for Solarize Somerville collected by the City and SolarFlair, the Solarize Somerville installer