

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
COMMISSION ON ENERGY USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR**

Commissioners

Ramón Bueno
Liz Galloway
Eliza Johnston
Julie Wood
Larry Yu – Chair
Oliver Sellers-Garcia – *Ex-officio*

**Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting**

Commissioners Attending: Ramon Bueno, Liz Galloway, Eliza Johnston, Julie Wood, Larry Yu, Oliver Sellers-Garcia

Commissioners Not Attending: N/A

Staff Attending: Christine Blais, Erik Larson

Members of the Public Attending: Ibrahim Lopez-Hernandez, Grace Hall, Stephen Thomas

Meeting started at 7:00 P.M.

Review and adopt the minutes from the September 8, 2021 meeting.

- 7:06 PM Eliza moved to approve the minutes. Ramón seconded. Larry voted in favor. Julie obtained. **Motion approved unanimously at 7:06 P.M.**

City Updates.

- Last year, six percent of renewable energy credits (RECs) were purchased by municipal aggregations programs. The northeast is the only part of the country (with a renewable portfolio standard (RPS)) where REC purchasing is keeping up with and even pushing new generation. It does seem that buying RECs is impacting and creating a demand for new renewable generation.
- Oliver is leaving the City of Somerville and his last day is a week from Friday. He will be the Director of Resiliency and Equity at the MBTA. This is a new position based in the capital division. He is excited for this challenge but is sad to leave Somerville. He thanked the Commission for their partnership over the years. Commissioners all wished Oliver well and thanked him for all he did during his time with Somerville. Christine will serve as the interim director of Office of Sustainability and Environment (OSE) while they search for Oliver's replacement.

Introducing new OSE staff.

- Christine Blais, Climate Change Program Manager (Acting OSE Director as of 10/25/21), came from the City's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development-Housing Division where she worked on a lot of climate resilience and energy related initiatives, including the rental registration program. Christine will supervise the new outreach position as well.
- Erik Larson, Energy Manager, joined Somerville after many years in the private sector working on energy efficiency. He worked with a lot of municipalities as a contractor under the Green Communities program and excited to be joining the City.

Presentations and discussion on climate resilience

- **Ramon Bueno, CEUCC: Lessons learned on equitable resilience including cumulative events in Puerto Rico.**
- Ramon presented lessons learned from back to back disasters that hit Puerto Rico.
- **Ibrahim Lopez-Hernandez, Sustainability Manager, North Suffolk Office of Resilience & Sustainability: Regional resilience and initiatives in the North Suffolk County area**
- Ibrahim previously worked as Climate Justice Organizer with GreenRoots. His presentation focused on North Suffolk County which includes Chelsea, Revere and Winthrop. Based on the 2020 Census, the majority of the area of Chelsea and Everett are considered Environmental Justice neighborhoods while Winthrop has some Environmental Justice designated areas. The staff position stemmed out of the North Suffolk Public Health Collaborative, with support from MAPC and funding by the Barr Foundation for three years along with some support from the three municipalities.
- He is working on a variety of projects including individual projects that are priorities in each community and shared priorities:
 - Chelsea Microgrid which will have battery storage and generation and be owned and operated by the municipality. City Hall and the police station are included in the first phase which will be critical to disaster resilience. Janus Apartments, an affordable housing apartment building, is the third building in the first phase.
 - North Suffolk Building Energy Reduction and Disclosure will likely be similar to Boston's initial Building Energy Reduction and Disclosure program, but they are going to look at a variety of examples and will do considerable data analysis to understand local impact. This may include the creation of a public energy and climate commission.

Any and all business before the commission.

- None

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.