

Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022, 2021 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Commissioners Attending: Ramón Bueno (Vice chair), Eri Furusawa, Eliza Johnston, Aladdine Joroff, Julie Wood, Christine Blais (ex-officio)

Commissioners Not Attending: Larry Yu (Chair), Liz Galloway

Staff Attending: Emily Mutkoski, Erin Noël

Attendees: Hannah Gruber, Jack Perenick, Nate Newman

Meeting started at: 7:03 p.m.

Subcommittee Updates:

- Outreach - Community Choice Electricity (CCE)
 - o Ms. Mutkoski shared updates about outreach efforts for CCE. OSE (Office of Sustainability and Environment) is getting ready to release marketing materials: brochure (with six non-English languages) and flyers will be available across City buildings, flyers will also be available on the City's website.
 - o Commissioner Blais highlighted the CCE program video. Commissioner Bueno is contributing a Spanish version and Ms. Noël a Haitian Creole version. Somerville's CCE is getting some press coverage, including this [CommonWealth](#) article.
 - o Ms. Mutkoski shared that they are setting up a table in partnership with the Council on Aging for events in October and November.
 - o Ms. Noël has been going to Community Meetings to share how to opt in and opt up.
 - o Commissioner Furusawa asked whether OSE has a target enrollment number. Commissioner Blais offered to look into this. Commissioner Bueno asked whether we have geography-specific enrollment data; Commissioner Blais clarified that only aggregated data is available. Commissioner Furusawa suggested setting a target number, potentially for further discussion during an Outreach Subcommittee meeting. Commissioner Wood followed up on next steps and group determined that the Outreach Subcommittee would continue this discussion.
 - o Commissioner Bueno noted Somerville Local Green is less expensive than the Eversource Basic Service Rate and that is a good talking point.
 - o Commissioner Blais asked Ms. Mutkoski and Ms. Noël whether there is anything CEUCC members can supporting on the outreach front. Commissioner Bueno suggested that Somerville Climate Ambassadors would also be a good conduit for this work. Ms. Noël noted that outreach would be a critical scope of the next cohort of Ambassadors.
 - o Ms. Mutkoski supported the idea to define an enrollment target and to emphasize the cost saving aspect in the messaging.
 - o Next Steps:
 - OSE team to continue CCE outreach.
 - Outreach Subcommittee to meet to discuss target enrollment numbers.

- Outreach - Somerville Climate Forward (SCF) engagement discussion
 - o Ms. Noël is beginning outreach to groups that represent diverse communities in Somerville (including Mystic River, Mothers out Front).
 - o Commissioner Furusawa asked about the RFP timeline. Commissioner Blais clarified there are a few separate processes – 1) the SCF selection committee (Commissioner

Blais, Commissioner Wood, Commissioner Galloway, and Commissioner Furusawa) will be reviewing proposals over the next couple of weeks; and 2) GHG inventory, and 3) Ambassadors relaunch (led by Ms. Noël)

- The timeline for the SCF is listed in the RFP. The plan is to wrap up in mid-September of 2023.
 - Commissioner Bueno asked how the consultants will meet with the CEUCC. Commissioner Blais clarified that consultants would meet five times with CEUCC, separate from the three community meetings they are scoped to do.
 - Commissioner Bueno invited guests for questions. Mr. Perenick asked Commissioner Blais if she is attending the ResiStat meeting. Commissioner Blais clarified that Emily Sullivan is running the meeting that evening and that OSE staff have and will be present at all meetings.
 - Commissioner Blais facilitated a visioning activity using the Jamboard tool. Commissioner Furusawa clarified that notes from today's discussion will be shared with the selected consultants to inform their work.
 - Prompts:
 - How do we want to talk about the SCF Update?
 - How do we want others to talk about the SCF Update?
 - The goal of the Somerville Climate Forward Update is to...
 - Process statement: The Somerville Climate Forward Update will achieve this goal by...
 - Major themes included, among others:
 - **Embedding equity and inclusion** into the process as an explicit priority by centering historically underrepresented communities and those who were not included in the original SCF plan
 - **Establishing Somerville's position** as a leader in climate sustainability, while learning from recent efforts by peer cities
 - **Forming and strengthening partnerships** with community and neighboring municipalities
 - **Broadening the conversation about climate** so that residents feel that climate is connected to many aspects of life in the city
 - **Developing an actionable and concrete plan** to operationalize climate by integrating climate planning into city decisions and policy goals, and having measurable goals and milestones
 - **Reflect the latest trends and political landscape** that accounts for recent federal and state policy updates, as well as market trends
 - Next Steps:
 - Commissioner Blais to discuss with Climate Change Program Manager and Engagement Specialist and pass along discussion outcomes to the SCF consultant, once selected.
- Buildings: Development Review
- Commissioner Blais noted that Commissioner Yu wanted to raise if/how the CEUCC might be involved in development review. This will be tabled until the next CEUCC meeting.
 - Commissioner Bueno will be withdrawing from the Building & Development Review Subcommittee to focus on efforts for the Outreach Subcommittee.

- Next Steps:
 - Continue discussion during the upcoming CEUCC meeting.
- Policy: Final net zero and stretch energy code language released
 - Commissioner Blais provided updates for the [stretch energy code and specialized stretch energy code](#). Department of Energy Resources released the final language for the Stretch Code and Specialized Codes in September 2022. The Specialized Code include instructions for residential low-rise construction, commercial, and most multi-family construction, and applies to new constructions, alterations, and change of use. It provides multiple pathways toward meeting requirements.
 - Commissioner Bueno noted that the Code descriptions are highly technical and asked about resources about the stretch codes that are digestible. Commissioner Blais pointed to a summary sheet on the DOER's website.
- Admin Subcommittee
 - Commissioner Johnston confirmed that there are no updates for this month.
 - Commissioner Wood asked whether we will be meeting in person. Commissioners generally agreed that it is preferable to convene online for the foreseeable future. Commissioner Johnson proposed that we meet in person for specific sessions where in-person participation would be beneficial.

September 2022 meeting minutes

Commissioner Wood made a MOTION to approve the September 2022 minutes at 8:11 PM.
Commissioner Furusawa SECONDED at 8:11 PM. The motion was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY at 8:11 PM.

Other business before the Commission

- CEUCC is back up to capacity as of July 2022. Commissioner Blais is waiting for guidance to update Commissioner Johnston's appointment.
- Commissioner Bueno shared that bus stops along Somerville Avenue have metal benches that become hot during the summer and do not have any shade. This is a transportation equity issue that should be brought up both in SCF and future city policy/budget discussions. Commissioner Blais will bring this up to the team working on the [Parking & Curb Use Study](#); Commissioner Joroff offered that this could be a further topic for exploration by Ambassadors.

The November 2022 meeting will be postponed by a week, to Tuesday, 11/15 due to the election.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.