

**Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 12, 2022, 2021 7:00 P.M.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Commissioners Attending:** Aladdine Joroff, Eliza Johnston, Larry Yu (chair), Christine Blais (ex-officio)

**Commissioners Not Attending:** Julie Wood, Liz Galloway, Ramón Bueno

**Attendees:** Eri Furusawa, Jack Perenick, Ron Cavalla, Stella Carr, Grace Hall

**Meeting started at: 7:10 PM.**

**City Updates:**

**7:10 Introductions**

**7:17 Review and Approval of Minutes**

Deferred until the next meeting. Reminder when taking notes to note attendees and the times and outcomes of motions and decisions.

**7:18 Discuss 100-Day Net-Zero Carbon Negative and Somerville Climate Forward progress and recommendations.**

Director Blais provided an update regarding the City's work regarding the Somerville Climate Forward Plan, which includes preparing: (i) a five year review of action to-date; and (ii) an update to the Plan, including reflecting the City's new target of net zero carbon negative by 2050. Work this year will include developing inventories and pathway analyses, one-page deep dive briefs, community engagement and the 2021 progress report. Issues that were discussed at greater length during the meeting included the following.

- Consumption Based Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory: The City will prepare an Request for Proposals to update the GHG inventory for Somerville, including adding a consumption-based inventory. Discussions with Commission members and attendees regarding:
  - Necessary precision of consumption related data may depend on how data is used, *e.g.*, informational v. part of negative net zero carbon target.
  - Ability to address these emissions likely requires more individual behavior changes than traditional City levers.
  - City will ask consultant to address how consumption emissions could relate to the definition of negative net zero carbon and effects on the City's compliance obligations.
  - Costs and benefits of expanding compliance obligation to include more non-direct emission reduction actions.
  - What can we learn from what other communities are doing, with respect to measurement metrics and leverage to push for change?
  - How educate community members about consumption emissions data, including providing opportunities for action to take and avoiding concern about large increases in City's overall emissions inventory if reported together.
- Public engagement process. Goal is to develop a more equitable engagement process, *e.g.*, lead with opportunities for translators and translated materials, more accessible ways for providing feedback, and increasing the number of people engaged.
- Commission involvement in preparation of updated Plan: In the past, the Commission reviewed Requests for Proposals, interviewed final candidates and made recommendations to the City, and sat on various working groups. Agreed that this seems a good role again.

- Director Blais has virtual public office hours every second Thursday; open to all for further discussion.

**8:09 City Updates**

- Commission Open Position: This is posted; applications due next week.
- Department of Energy Resources Proposed Municipal Opt-in Specialized Stretch Energy Code Straw Proposal: City submitted a comment letter.
- Community Choice Electricity Program 100% Local Green Structure: Discussed option of changing percentage of Class I RECs used as part of the 100% opt-in plan. Commissioners noted supporting zero-carbon renewable energy (e.g. not including biomass in definition) and RECs from offshore wind, in light of local economic/job benefits even if not classified as Class I RECs.

**Any and all business before the Commission.**

**8:29 Meeting Adjourned.**