

Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Committee Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Community Room/GoToMeeting

Committee Members Present

- Peter Fromuth David Ertz Scott Sherriff Celine Kuhn
 Stephanie Watson Vacancy Bill Dunn Danielle Hood Megan Hellstedt
 Anna Siegel (SL) Heather Abbott (TC)
 Scott LaFlamme (Staff) Meddy Smith (Staff)

Public in Attendance: Matt Gamache (YCAT)

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 9, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Meddy Smith brought the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and Peter Fromuth called for a motion to approve the August 9, 2023, minutes and accept them as presented. David Ertz seconded the motion to approve, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ONGOING PROJECT UPDATES

Committee Chair Role

Danielle Hood introduced her desire to step away from the current duties of Committee Chair after two years in the role. The group discussed options for moving forward, including selecting a new chair or leaving a vacancy in the chair position due to anticipated upcoming conversations about committee restructuring with the release and approval of a Climate Action Plan, which this group will be responsible for implementing. Meddy and Heather provided context for appropriate next steps and the group decided to retain Danielle in the Chair position and delegate some related duties to Meddy. Future agendas will be formed with input from all committee members.

Sligo Road Solar

David Ertz gave an update on the effort to create a solar array at Town property on Sligo Road. Currently, the term sheet is moving along and with CMP but there are delays in planned interconnection that could disrupt progress. Scott LaFlamme and David are waiting to reconnect with the developer to discuss potential solutions, including reducing the size of the array.

- *Action Item(s)*: David will provide updates to the group in the next meeting.

Efficiency Yarmouth

Peter Fromuth gave an update on the Efficiency Yarmouth program and outreach. Peter has presented to Aging in Place and Yarmouth Cares About Neighbors (YCAN) recently to promote the heat pump rebate program. Feedback from those groups indicate that residents/ potential applicants may have limited computer access and will need support in navigating the application process. Both groups will support outreach and request content for their respective newsletters.

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- *Action Item(s)*: The subgroup will reconnect to discuss final edits to program materials and next steps for outreach.

School Research

Meddy and Megan introduced a call for research support to aid conversations with School Superintendent Dolloff on opportunities to reduce emissions from the school system. Particularly case study research on net zero school or commercial retrofits, funding sources, and consulting or engineering firms working on HVAC conversion to non-fossil fuel.

- *Action Item(s)*: CEES members are encouraged to notify Meddy and Megan of any relevant information in the next week.

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Meddy and Megan reported on the progress of the Climate Action Task Force in developing the Climate Action Plan, including giving notice of the upcoming October 10th public workshop. The remainder of the meeting consisted of group review and discussion of draft action ideas provided by GPCOG for the topics of Energy and Buildings. Matt Gamache, from the Climate Action Task Force, asked several questions on what has been done already or is in progress related to town renewable energy development.

In this review, the group discussed the feasibility and priority of action ideas, opportunities to refine or combine actions, and the relevance of actions ideas to Yarmouth. Feedback will be incorporated into the YCAT Energy Subgroup's action refinement process. The group decided that additional time in review and discussion would be valuable and that a meeting should be scheduled for late September.

- *Action item(s)*: Meddy to schedule an additional late September meeting for CEES to review additional draft actions in advance of the October 10th public workshop.

ADJOURN

The Committee adjourned upon mutual consent at 7:32 pm