

Beverly Clean Energy Advisory Committee Meeting
1/19/2022 6:30-8:00pm via Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/nyx-ohre-edm

CITY OF BEVERLY
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Call to order: 6:34 pm

Roll call committee: Julia Long, Julie DeSilva, Fred Hopps, Tom Keeley

Absent: Amy Smith, Sean Leach

Guests: Beverly's Sustainability Director Erina Keefe, Jordan Stutt, Wayne Miller, Amy Henderson, Tom Keeley, Councilors Scott Houseman and Todd Rotundo, Danielle Aretz, Bruce Egan, Lyndon Holmes and Mayor Mike Cahill

Fred motioned; Tom seconded to approve December Minutes; Motion carries 4 to 0

Mayor Cahill updates

- RFP awarded for 3 additional EV schoolbuses, which will go to the CC for approval in the near future
- Multitiste solar ISA with National Grid work and developer in line with developing of canopies and construction to start late spring
- New National Grid geothermal district heating DPU approved project, including 4 small scale projects over the next four years; RFP to come soon; we hope Beverly will be chosen. Erina and the city have scraped together data to inform the RFP, including information about steam heat and geology
- Councilor Rotundo eager to work with the committee to understand what the committee does and how he can better support it
- Julia grateful for the support and thoughtful discussion surrounding the resolution presented at CC on January 18. We need to be sure to make sure that we as a committee in the future give the CC as much time and information as possible as early as possible in any process. We hoped to duplicate Salem's result of an 11 to 0 resolution approval but understand the process that gave us a 4 to 3 approval of our resolution.

Erina Updates

Building retrofit outreach campaign - brainstorm events and locations for outreach; brainstorm strategy for identifying case study participants for home retrofit videos

- Two proposals received that look encouraging. Video project to be included that will show four different "case studies".
- Who do we know that would be willing to do a 2-min max stylized video for this purpose. Committee to give leads to Erina of people who would be willing to film a walkthrough or a project in process. We want projects that show that heat pumps can work, including data about usage. Videos are funded through a grant. Forced hot water replacement video would be ideal per Wayne. Fred has worked on both Sean's and Wayne's homes, which could be projects to be filmed. Julia mentioned a friend building a net-zero passive home who would be willing to be filmed.
- Incentives for heat pumps and insulation will improve later this year based on NG's 3-year plan, which will hopefully move ahead.

Sustainability checklist for new development during early design phase (e.g., Project Review Team) and Resilience checklist

- Given to project vendors to help let them know that we want them to build the "greenest" building they can. It would include meeting with National Grid regarding opportunities and incentives available to developers. What is the process necessary to enact something like this. Wayne

mentions that he always asks at Planning Board what about the project is green and if it's following our standards but that he doesn't have a set of standards to share. He reminded us that sticks and carrots are both necessary. [ERINA SHARED A SAMPLE FROM BOSTON]

EV charging ordinance

- Would like to introduce an ordinance that includes EV readiness policy asking for 25% of spots being level-2 EV spots, requiring laying conduit, which is an expense.

Solar ordinance update

- Revised Beverly ordinance needs to consider restrictive setbacks and height and canopies allowed by right and make better distinctions between large (far) projects and canopies. Natick has a solar permit checklist that would be helpful to have here to guide people in approvals. Erina asks for a review of our current ordinance and compare it against state's 2014 model ordinance or other comparable ordinances. Call for volunteer to review. Tom volunteered.
- Tom mentions that NG needs to be consulted to identify their "rules of the road" as their process is "arduous and monopolistic" and they are in charge of the grid. Fred echoes that solar installation needs to be transparent and easier (cites Mass Save and insulation as a good example to emulate).
- Scott H. mentioned that a residential installation in Ward 5 that was significant was allowed without notice to the neighbors. He asks people to understand the history of this case when crafting an ordinance.

SolSmart is a U.S. Department of Energy initiative that provides no-cost technical assistance and nationally recognizes local solar achievements. The program has been extended for another 5 years. Melrose, Gloucester, Andover, Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, and Winthrop participate nationally recognizes local solar achievements. The program has been extended for another 5 years. Melrose, Gloucester, Andover, Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, and Winthrop participate.

- Cadmus group (sp?) inquired about whether we have considered. Wayne was tasked with speaking with them. Visit SolSmart.org for program description. He recommends talking with them to determine how we could become a "gold community" and basically "what's in it for us"? He recommends exploring it through either the city or Green Beverly. Fred pointed out that the SolSmart guidelines would be helpful in NG solar permitting. Emily Hutchings and the City had communicated with the company back in 2018. It is fully funded by DOE. Julia encouraged by SolSmart "soft" costs and assistance. Tom again mentioned assistance with National Grid red tape as an area where we need assistance. Erina mentioned that Mayor Cahill and other communities continue to reach out to NG to solve the process problems. Wayne mentioned that other communities see NG as a collaborator and Mayor Cahill is making inroads seeing NG in this light.
- Legislative committee update regarding Green Futures Act Resolution (subcommittee of Fred, Jordan, Amy): Fred stated that when the group first convened in September they landed on the Green Futures Act as the best roadmap for what we want to do and hope to see enacted across the nature. Kudos and appreciation for Kevin O'Reilly and sponsor Scott Houseman. Without statewide support we can't move our committee's agenda forward. So encouraged by the unified effort with Salem. Acknowledged timing was not ideal for communication with council. If the bill gets out of committee we will continue to lobby and suggested that a renewed resolution may be in order. Discussion was lively, orderly conversation. This was a win. How do we get it to the statehouse and how do we publicize that Salem and Beverly stand strong in favor of this groundbreaking legislation.
- Houseman will work with CC president and the city clerk about how to send the resolution and indicated the list attached to Salem's resolution could be used to achieve our lobbying message that we are trying to deliver by passing this resolution.
- Amy enjoyed the process considering the audience and lamented that her councilor was one of the three who voted against the resolution. She was encouraged that at least two of the councilors who

opposed the resolution supported the work of our committee and were concerned about climate change.

- Wayne suggested that we need a post-mortem on why the vote went the way that it did, suggesting that it might have been tied to state-level politics. Julie D reminded us all to remind councilors and constituents discussing messaging and projects that city politics are nonpartisan.
- **Earthfest April 2022:** What take-home message or gift do we want people to take from our experience. Julia wants people to think out of the box, e.g., electric bike, deconstructed solar panel. We want to engage people to want to make change at home. Erina wants us to focus on fun, hands-on learning and experiences. Dump coal or recycling or trash to show impact? Julia wants us to consider the 100% energy question.
- **Bruce Updates:**
 - Boston Globe January 14: Earth logged its 6th hottest year on record last year.
 - Ben Fink, Blackrock CEO Annual Letter: Every company will be transformed by the transition to a netzero world and heralded the opportunities of sustainability
 - Scotland is working on a large offshore wind farm, which is encouraging
 - Smithsonian Magazine did a recent piece on fusion energy of interest
 - Doomsday movie: Don't Look Up is quite an interesting movie about humans' reaction to natural disasters; recommends watching it
 - Exxon has decided to become more sustainable: Netzero is not zero in terms emissions.
- Scott thanked the committee for its work.
- **Close with quote by Amelia Erhardt: *The most effective way to do it is to do it.***

Adjourn: 8:09 PM Next Meeting: February 16, 2022