

Beverly Clean Energy Advisory Committee Meeting

6/15/2022 6:30-8:00pm via Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/nyx-ohre-edm

Call to order: 6:35 pm

Roll call committee: Julia Long, Julie DeSilva, Fred Hopps, Amy Smith, Jordan Stutt

Absent: Tom Keeley, Sean Leach **Guests:** Beverly's Sustainability Director Erina Keefe, Lyndon Holmes, Kevin O'Reilly, Wayne Miller, Dean Berg

- No meeting in May due to posting error.
- Julie D motioned; Fred seconded to approve April minutes; approved 5 to 0
- Welcome Jordan Stutt as our newest voting member! Fred noted Jordan as the person to call on for updates on legislation and policy.
- Kevin noted ground source heat pump to be installed at BPL!
- Newest member, Jordan, and his wife Ally moved to Beverly in 2020. Worked for 10 years in clean energy and climate space. Recently moved to Seven Eleven to work on its charging station program and is excited to have CEAC as a touchpoint to continue his advocacy work.

Erina Updates

- Solar projects break ground on Monday! Pond St lots and BMS foundations start on Monday. Fact sheets available to explain the project to families. Press release sent and picked up by the Patch: <https://patch.com/massachusetts/beverly/beverly-install-solar-panels-6-municipal-sites>
- Wayne asked about the financials: \$1.1 M of revenue over the 20-year agreement with option to extend. \$937,000 of electricity cost savings.

Beverly & Salem Energy Challenge (url sponsored by HomeWorks:

<https://www.homeworksenergy.com/town-partners/beverly-salem/>)

- Goal of 50% reduction by 2030.
- Consumers are overwhelmed by the variance in quotes and requirements. City is partnering with Abode Energy to offer "free" consultations for citizens to make sense of their options for heat pumps. Julia noted that a few people have inquired about this at the Farmers Market. All of the team needs to work to get the word out on this opportunity. Erina offered to coach some coaches at Green Beverly interested in this.
- Kevin says that his neighbors won't even think of this. He felt that awareness that heat pumps might mitigate the cost of expensive oil heat would generate more interest in this project. Erina mentioned that the HomeWorks team will be going out in the community.
- Jordan has had the home assessment. He referenced a good blog post on the process and incentives (<https://acadiacenter.org/heat-pumps-in-real-life/>).
- Dean met with someone who installed a heat pump 6 or 7 years ago and feels somewhat disappointed in the performance. Secondly, his electric bill has doubled. Dean is concerned that the optics need to be examined and people be prepared to combat perception vs reality. People need to be more aware of the options available rather than just what the tradespeople are telling them. Fred as a MassSave contractor for more than 10 years says that people want to make the changes but its confusing and there aren't enough contractors. He asked Kevin what his motivation was for installing solar. His main motivator was climate; secondary it was that the biggest ROI was hot water from solar for his duplex.
- Julia mentioned that Amy Henderson just purchased a home next to her and wants to make sure it gets the right type of improvements. She is looking for help and suggestions on the project.

- Gas to heat pump is likely not going to save money. Electricity costs are trending to increase more slowly than delivered fuels.
- Erina said that city requested \$2 M in free cash from CC to jumpstart the hiring of a project manager as well as considering applying for a \$.5 M Green Communities grant
- DPU has signaled Beverly will be able to launch the GAC program for this winter. RFP will likely happen this fall. Julia suggested asking Marlina to our September meeting (or perhaps an August meeting). We all need to be thinking about what the GAC campaign looks like.
- CEAC has an open slot and people who are interested should reach out to Julia or Erina.

EarthFest Review

Co-sponsored with city. Approx 1,000 attended. Great mix of family-friendly activities and energy. "Smashing success" according to folks who have been doing Lynch events for years. 15 home energy assessments. Erina would want a more formal CEAC presence and education in the future. Everyone was pleased with the event. Fred mentioned a lot of city council members and Rep Parisella were there, which is great.

Green Beverly Update from Dean Berg

- Focus is on popups right now and no big events! Pumpkin Smash is coming in November!
- Market research shows that sustainability alone is not enough; events need to check two boxes: needs to be a happening or activity attached.
- Beverly won the State Farm grant! Big check presentation to come! Purvi Harvey to head up the Food Diversion Project.
- Green Up 100 launch to come soon. Need to discuss how this impacts GMA.
- Restaurant compostables project is underway. We need a project manager for that.
- Won a Green Network grant to create a green business directory and expand newsletter project.
- GB was approached by 2 high school students who started a green club at BHS. Very active and inspiring!

Legislative Update

- Fred: Promoting Green Futures Act, which is still alive. Fred commented on several bills.
- State of RI voted to be fossil fuel free by 2040!
- We need to show local leaders and state leaders that we support climate legislation. Jordan has drafted a letter that we could use as individuals to engage with leaders. Jordan mentioned House bill focuses mostly on wind and Senate has even more, including clean transportation. Letter focuses on how to combine the best of both bills.
- Fred asked if the CEAC can sign a letter as a committee. Erina said we could vote to sign en masse. Amy asked that we get more time. Julie D suggested that we could sign as individuals. Kevin mentioned that he is meeting with the six-person conference committee next week. Rep Parisella spoke with conference committee Rep Roy. ARPA funds are currently held up and Rep Parisella has power as head of this committee.
- Fred wants to do a joint letter with the mayor and asked about this happening now. Erina to check with the mayor. Committee to discuss how this type of advocacy should happen in the future at September meeting.
- Julie D mentioned that Green Future Now sent an email today that people could use for advocacy: <https://www.greenfuturenowma.org/municipal-official-letter>

Adjourn: 8:10 PM

Next Meeting: September 21, 2022