

Carlisle Energy Task Force  
Minutes of the Meeting on March 1, 2021

(Virtual Zoom) Meeting convened at 7:04

Present: Bob Zogg, Addie Grady, Brian Mottershead, Launa Zimmaro  
(Guests: Emily Smith—Mosquito, Dave Boettcher)

Minutes: Adelaide Grady

7:02 – approve minutes from 2/1/21 as amended, motion to approve by Grady, seconded by Zimmaro, approved unanimously

7:11 – Team building

**Lead: Addie Grady**

- Discussion of specific actionable items CETF can take on to advance mission
- Discussion to be continued on actionable items

8:18 – Annual Report draft

**Lead: Bob Zogg**

- Motion to approve Annual Report draft, as amended, made by Zimmaro, seconded by Grady
- 3 votes for: Zimmaro, Grady, Zogg; 1 abstention: Mottershead

(Virtual Zoom) Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm

Minutes approved 4/5/21

Submitted by: Adelaide Grady

## CARLISLE ENERGY TASK FORCE (CETF)

### Green Community Grant Summary

In June 2020, the CETF completed its final report to close out the Green Community projects awarded in 2018, which included lighting retrofits at the school and DPW, destratification fans at the school gymnasium, energy-efficient controls and pumps at Town Hall, and an anti-idling device for a new police cruiser. We had to drop a project to install an electric-vehicle charging station due to delays beyond the control of the CETF. In a separate effort the CETF was able to negotiate the installation of three charging stations along with the new solar array at the school—see further discussion below.

Between 2012 and 2020, Carlisle's participation in the Green Communities program leveraged over \$800,000 in grants and utility incentives to lower Carlisle's municipal energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, saving roughly \$500,000 in energy costs during that time period alone.

Carlisle has not applied for a Green Communities grant since 2018 because we are not able to secure adequate time from Town staff and volunteers to maintain the substantial effort associated with applying for grants, meeting reporting requirements, and overseeing projects.

### Path to Zero Emissions

In March 2020, the CETF published the final version of its report, *Path to Zero Emissions—Creating a Sustainable Carlisle*. This report documents Carlisle's first community-wide estimate of greenhouse gas emissions, identifies options for goals to reduce emissions, and outlines a conceptual approach for reaching such goals. We presented the results of the report to the community (three separate events), the Planning Board, and the School Committee. The report is available on the Town website at: <https://www.carlislema.gov/758/Path-to-Zero-Emissions>

### Community Choice Aggregation

Voters authorized the Carlisle Select Board to adopt a Community Choice Aggregation program ("Program") at its 2016 Annual Town meeting. The Select Board seeks electricity suppliers through the Program that provide cost savings and environmental benefits on behalf of participating Carlisle residents and businesses. Participating residents and businesses are not guaranteed cost savings compared to Eversource Basic Service.

Carlisle's first contract (with Public Power LLC) ran from July 2018 to January 2021. We estimate that participating Carlisle residents and businesses saved about \$270,000 during this period compared to Eversource Basic Service. Carlisle's second contract (with Residents Energy) runs from January 2021 – January 2024.

During 2020, members of the CETF provided analysis and recommendations to an advisory committee appointed by the Town Administrator, which, in turn, advised the Select Board. This culminated in the new contract that includes a default offering that is a 100% renewable energy product, including 33% to 35% (depending on year) from MA Class I Renewable Energy Certificates sourced in New England. In addition to the default offering, participants may opt for:

- Optional Basic—Just meets Massachusetts requirements for renewable energy content
- Optional Green 100—A 100% renewable energy product that provides 100% MA Class I Renewable Energy Certificates.

The CETF also provided input to the community education/outreach effort to inform Carlisle residents and businesses of the new contract and the electricity options available through it.

See further details of the Program at: <https://www.carlislema.gov/731/Community-Choice-Aggregation-Program>

### Solar Array at Carlisle Public Schools

In 2018, the CETF began investigating the feasibility of installing solar photovoltaic arrays on Town property, taking advantage of the incentives available through the new Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program. Based on this analysis, Carlisle residents approved a warrant article authorizing the installation of a solar array at the Carlisle Public Schools at the 2019 Town Meeting and approved a change in the solar overlay district to allow use of this site. (Voters also authorized installation of an array at the transfer station, but that site later proved to be impractical.)

The solar array was erected in summer/early fall 2020 and will become operational in early 2021. In addition to producing renewable electricity, the array will provide the Town with \$33,777 annually for the next 20 years (\$22,500 annual lease payment and \$11,277 annual payment in lieu of taxes).

### Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Ameresco, the firm installing and operating the new solar array at the school, agreed to install three electric-vehicle charging stations at the school at no cost to the Town, including network service fees for the first five years of charging-

station operation. The Town will charge fees for vehicle charging to cover the costs of the electricity. The charging stations will be available for public use.

**Support to Carlisle Master Plan**

The CETF is supporting Carlisle's development of a new master plan. The CETF chair serves as the Sustainability Element Captain on the Master Plan Steering Committee and another CETF member is supporting the Housing Element. If Carlisle residents express sufficient support, CETF members will draft appropriate language for the new master plan, including:

- Goals to lower Carlisle's community-wide greenhouse gas emissions
- Key steps to pursue those goals.

**Members**

Adelaide Grady, Brian Mottershead,