

Submitted to townclerk@carlislema.gov office for posting on May 10, 2021

Carlisle Energy Task Force

Minutes of the Meeting on April 5, 2021.

Minutes approved on May 3, 2021

Respectfully submitted by: Launa Zimmaro

(Virtual Zoom) Meeting convened at 7:07

Present: Bob Zogg, Adelaide Grady, Brian Mottershead, Launa Zimmaro

(Guests: Barney Arnold as Select Board liaison)

Minutes: Launa Zimmaro

7:08 – **Approve minutes** from 3/1/21, motion to approve by Grady, seconded by Zimmaro, approved unanimously.

7:09 – **Meeting Effectiveness**

Highlights of General Group Discussion

- Members need to feel a commitment to the team and believe in the team and that they can make a contribution. Basic “rules of the road” in terms of respecting diverse opinions and perspectives, sharing “air time”, moving on when consensus to do so.
- Difficulties may relate to different perspectives about our opportunities to make a difference, and how/whether we can make change happen in a short period of time. Some frustration related to the amount of time/effort to do even small things.
- All agreed we need to move past minutiae and to work on substantive issues
- Acknowledgment that this was a tough entry for this team – all new – and we got thrown into Community Choice Aggregation process and its issues. We all want to feel productive and work as equals on the team. Agendas are an opportunity for people to weigh in re what we do/focus on in our meetings and are open to change based on feedback from members; members need the opportunity to weigh in.
- One member suggested that sending draft agendas that look like they are final is a barrier to member participation in shaping the agenda. We need to discuss together what should be on the agenda for the next meeting, to have an opportunity to share what we think should be on the next agenda. List/prioritize ideas from the members.
- Need greater clarity about what we can or can't do in terms of opportunities and our charter.

- Are time allocations necessary agenda items? One member was concerned that, if we publish the time and finish earlier, we would have to wait since time was publicized and some non-member participants may be waiting for that time to join.
- The Select Board (SB) deals with this time-allocation issue with a note added to agendas to allow some flexibility to SB that indicated the SB would honor times listed to “best of its ability”, reserving the flexibility to take agenda items out of order.
- Bob said that he finds time allocations on agendas helpful for meeting facilitation.
- Acknowledgement that while we may have different views, it is always important to maintain civility, e.g., word our responses/comments in a way that is sensitive to all members.
- Acknowledgement that times are helpful to keep us focused and moving through the agenda during the meeting, as long as members can decide to continue discussion or end it “real time” through consensus.

7:42 CETF Action Plan

We agreed to list our priorities, long and short term as a group brainstorming activity, noting that viable actions need to be attached to member(s) so they can be implemented. Addie scribed brainstormed ideas; we used brainstorming “rules” – no discussion of items, just listing them first and discussing after list generated.

Brainstormed list for consideration

- Propose to Select Board to purchase premium energy option for municipal energy
- Home Rule Petition (HRP) for electrification of new construction and renovations of private [and public] buildings
- Propose to Select Board to require electrification of new and renovated/retrofitted municipal buildings
- Propose to Select Board to require electrification of municipal vehicles
- Zoning for housing density
 - Cluster zoning
 - By right 2-family
- Support/promote Select Board efforts to make changes at transfer station to reduce emissions and increase user ease and access. Possible programs include:
 - Charging for bulky items
 - Expanding organics diversion
 - Pay as you throw
- Community solar projects
 - Expand solar overlay district
- Explore options for ground source heat pump energy
- High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) encouragement – commuting
- Load reductions – energy efficiency, Deep Energy Retrofits
- Propose sustainability staff

Discussion of brainstorm list

Need to determine criteria for assessing items on list starting with:

- Go after “low hanging fruit” i.e., we can do it
- Work to establish role of SB as “leading on sustainability” through word and action (e.g., 1st 4 items on brainstorm list)
- Prioritize reducing the energy loads in homes
- Establish role of CETF as resource and contributor to the SB/community on energy related issues
- Need to draft a roadmap that identifies highest impact actions and how to achieve them
- Provide information and resources to the community related to state, regional and national climate plans to increase general awareness of the issue and help guide us re matters that we can support as a community

A concern was raised by two members re how to get the word out to the community.

Barney:

- We can utilize the various orgs with mailing lists to advertise/publicize events/actions, Mosquito, Transfer Station, Flyers, etc.
- CETF could work on new building proposal underway in town: a public safety building. Need to add important consideration re energy efficiency. RFP to determine space needs has been drafted.
- CETF could propose that it be involved re drafting net zero requirements, etc. CETF could make a statement during community input segment of the 04/13 SB meeting re the public safety building.
- Points raised by CETF members that cost is always considered and FinCom is automatically a part of every conversation. It was also suggested that there be a separate meeting with the SB for a more comprehensive discussion of the role of the CETF.

There was discussion that the CETF needs to be considered in the same way as FinCom so that both cost and environmental impact are always a part of the conversation. CETF is a committee appointed by the Select Board and needs to have the status that accrues to SB appointed committees.

Action Items

- Barney will get back to us re timeline for the public safety building proposal/Town Meeting process.
- CETF members will attend the April 13 SB meeting to provide input re environmental impact considerations. We agreed that LEED certification is not adequate based on urgent need to drive down emissions because it may overemphasize other environmental benefits without sufficient emphasis on energy efficiency. Bob had some hesitancy to use the term “net zero energy” because the definition is a bit in flux, and we may want to be flexible on source of renewable energy (local or remote). Bob’s language: “Highly efficient electric building.”
- Barney will notify Tim and Alan Lewis that we be included as contributor during the 4/13 SB meeting re our role with the development of plans for the proposed public safety building. Barney invited us to submit material to the SB packet going out on Friday to emphasize the fact that CETF input as a

valuable resource to the town on this project or just make a verbal statement. [Barney left the meeting at this point.] **The team agreed to make a verbal statement only.**

- Bob agreed to be the spokesperson at the SB meeting, but encouraged each member to send him inputs on how the message should be phrased. Bob explained that he will use his best judgment to synthesize a statement from those inputs. The CETF recommendation will be for a highly efficient, all-electric building (with exceptions for emergency generators and the like).

(Virtual Zoom) **Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm**