

CARLISLE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES
25th May 2023

Location : Virtual (via Zoom)

Participants :

- Members Present: Christina Christodoulou (CC), Bob Zogg (BZ), Eric Balles (EB), Glenn Reed (GR), Dave Boettcher (DB), Launa Zimmaro (LZ)
- Members Absent: Dan Cook, Debbie Bentley, Kath Hardcastle, Joeth Barlas
- Non-Members Present: Sue Thomas (ST), Sustainability Coordinator, Sara Dunleavy, Aidan O'Connor

Minutes Prepared by: Dave Boettcher

Minutes Approved on: Thursday June 8th, 2023

Summary of Action Items:

Description	Resp.
Check to see if Glenn was present at the 5/11 meeting	KH
Meet with Atlantic Electrical to discuss getting Eversource to fund 100% of infrastructure cost for new EV charging stations	EB
Need to promote Home Energy Assessments and push out the letter from HWE	DB
Need to discuss structure of ESC going forward, Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer	All
Feedback on how SB can better support new committees	All

Call to Order and Public Input:

- Christina called meeting to order at 4:35pm

Public Comment:

Glenn Reed speaking as a private citizen - sincerely thanks CC for Invasive Species Walk
Christina Christodoulou speaking as a private citizen - thanks BZ for very informative Heat Pump 101 talk

Minute approval:

Debbie wrote and issued 4/13/2023 meeting minutes – EB moved to approved, BZ seconded, minutes are approved.

Minutes for 5/11/2023 meeting – double check if GR was present at meeting. Will be up for approval next meeting.

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Agenda Items

• **Transportation**

- Eversource funded EV Charging infrastructure
 - EB: will meet with Atlantic Electrical to discuss getting Eversource to fund 100% of infrastructure cost for new EV charging stations
 - June 1st 10AM, location TBD
 - There are both state and utility programs to support funding
 - GR: curious if charging will be required to participate in demand response programs
 - DB: Eversource closed their DM program at the end of 12/31/22
- ChargePoint EV charging rate at the school
 - GR: drafted letter to town administrator regarding the high prices of charging in response to a concern raised on CITW
 - Current rate is \$.55 which is about 2x the CCA rate charged to the school
 - BZ: suggests simplifying the request – what is the analysis behind the current rate that shows it's break-even for the town?
 - Select Board (SB) told the town to operate the charging station at break-even rate
 - ST: talked to Concord about their charging rate structure
 - Investigating electric buses for Westford and Carlisle
- Additional Charging locations in town
 - GR: If there are monies available where would additional locations be
- ST: wants to be sure we are not missing the funding and design window, and that the infrastructure meets the needs of Carlisle customers.

• **Built Environment**

- CC: Approaches to gaining resident support to specialized stretch code (SSC)
 - Seems like there is less support from SB than in the past
 - ST: Suggests DOER presentation on SSC on Wednesday September 20th, the committee supports this date
 - GR: BZ: We don't need to spend too much time on at the 6/13 select board meeting convincing the SB to include SSC in the Fall Town Meeting
 - GR: Thinks and has heard from other towns that once the SSC is on the warrant it should pass without too much objection (per guidance from Barney Arnold)
 - CC: List of all towns that passed SSC would be impactful visual
- BZ: May 24th Heat Pump talk
 - 17 attendees, including three ECS members

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- Minuteman media (who recorded the event) has been a challenge to connect with and slow turnaround
- Maybe have another Heat Pump talk virtually
- Presentation and outreach efforts posted to sharepoint
- DB: BZ: Working with HomeWorks to draft a letter to residents
 - EB: Will have a Home Energy Assessment to understand how HWE handles deck houses
 - ST: Satisfied with HWE assessment
 - Not all assessments go great_– be prepared to field questions/concerns as no company relationship will result in perfect customer experiences every time
 - DB: Mass Save is usually a great experience (95%+ of the time) but it is a program to serve many households and not a customer program to cater to every homeowner and home's needs.
- **Natural Environment**
 - CC: Will reach out to pertinent entities to help come up with a plan for the Town Hall flower beds to showcase native plants
 - ST: Concord has three demonstration beds for lawn alternatives from 2019
 - DB: The Concord website has not been updated in a few years. We should understand the state of those lawn alternative sites before we recommend Carlisle residents check them out.
- **Governance**
 - LZ: Breakup of legislature, joint committees will meet separately as opposed to jointly (Senate and House will meet separately)
 - ST: Some email traffic is asserting this new process is in response to the success of climate legislation and may be a method of slowing future passage. Launa did not believe this to be the case.
- **Feedback and Takeaways from the events**
 - CC: 14 respondents to RTSD survey, all 4 and 5 stars
 - Total budget just tipped over \$5000 by the Invasive Species Walk
 - LZ: Sustainable Middlesex event was helpful
 - MassCEC budget is still at \$25M, \$10M additional funding was rejected
 - MassCEC will be critical in MA meeting climate goals, particularly with transportation
 - BZ: breakout sessions went quickly, unfortunate Zoom issue that limited participation to 100 as opposed to the 250 registered
 - EB: Transportation is going to be a huge challenge
- **Outreach and future events**
 - CC: We will staff a table at Race Amity day if we get a volunteer
 - CC: She is staffing Old Home Day Table, LZ to help staff table potentially
 - CC: We can potentially have a table at the farmer's market

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- CC: Need to promote Home Energy Assessments
- CC: We should think about a quarterly newsletter and house tours
 - ST: Calendar for events in Westford and maybe share with Carlisle
- **Sustainability Coordinator Update**
 - ST: Working with Colonial Power to ask Residents Energy to lower their CCA rates back to those agreed to in our contract. Rates will hopefully go down for CCA new signups since the last six months or so, only a few homes are impacted
 - LZ: : What is the default option, ST and BZ: 25% more local renewable (MA Class I) than required by Massachusetts mandate
 - BZ: If Residents Energy does not drop their rates, we should discourage residents from signing up remainder of the calendar year because rates are significantly higher than Eversource's rate for the second half of 2023.
 - ST: Select Board wants the ESC to promote the CCA contract starting January 1, 2024
 - ST: DOER grant for support weatherization and EV vehicle
 - ST: Working with Municipal Facilities Committee to maximize rebates from utilities
 - ST: Attending National Grid's Green Expo
 - ST: Filed for reimbursement for RTSD
 - ST: Participated on panel with NIMCOG (regional planning committee), talked about the need to educate municipal leaders about education, much like ethics training, committees need to establish data dashboards to measure progress toward goals, standard website tools and templates, work with utilities to overcome their resistance to town projects, MAPC and NIMCOG working on pulling together larger geographic areas to aggregate funding opportunities

New Business

- CC: Should we sign on to letter of Support for MAPC to be a regional applicant for the Federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) grant on behalf of all towns in the EPA Region (Boston and NH)? If they do not win approval, no agency will assist region in capturing funding.
 - EB: Does letter come from the SB or the committee, CC: the ESC would support it
 - ST: Read the letter Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).
 - BZ: Does the Town Planner support it?
 - LZ: This money can only be requested by municipalities not by the state. This is a way to bring in more funding
 - CC: DB makes a motion to support the MAPC, LZ: seconds, passes
- CC: Provide feedback on Debbie's workplan slides and list of accomplishments by June 5th to prepare for June 13th SB meeting and to discuss at next ESC meeting
 - BZ: Suggests the SB meeting be posted as a joint meeting
- CC: Need to discuss structure of ESC going forward, Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer
- CC: Need feedback on how SB can better support new committees
- Sue to submit letter of Support on behalf of town (ESC, Julie, herself – whichever is most appropriate – all three)

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EB: Makes motion to adjourn at 6:03