

RECEIVED

By James Alexander at 8:27 am, Mar 27, 2023

Maynard Sustainability Committee

Minutes, 9 January 2023, 7 PM, Hybrid

Members present in person: Priscilla Ryder, Orian Greene, Kate Wheeler, Zana Cranmer, Meg Sobkowicz Kline (note taker), Sally Warner

Non-Members present: Jeffrey Swanberg, Selectboard member

Members absent: Lisa Vernegaard

Others present (Zoom): Roger Stillwater, Julie Gagen, Ken Neuhauser, Sarah Measures

- I. **Meeting called to order** at 7:00 PM
- II. **Minutes approved** for December meeting; OG moves, KW seconds, 6-0 approve
- III. **Next meeting date:** meeting set for Monday, Feb 6, 7:00 pm and March 6, 7:00 pm .
- IV. **Energy and Resilience Plan outline – ZC presenting**
 - a. Main topics include guiding principles, "big three" categories energy, buildings, transportation
 - b. We propose also to add nature based solutions, waste and resources, zoning stuff, public health, economic development, community engagement
 - c. Appendices: (a) list and links to comparable towns that also have a sustainability/resilience plan (b) zoning map based on new census puts an environmental justice community in town (c) Maynard demographics
 - d. Next steps:
 - i. Committee members to look at some promising examples to emulate, we like the shorter ones on the order of 20 pages, Members should see Wayland. No need to include a lot of science and history background that exists elsewhere.
 - ii. Comment from public: Julie Gagen mentioned that stakeholder engagement is necessary to write a plan that includes and has buy in from community. Also mentioned that an outside consultant is usually brought in to write something like this.
 - iii. PR responded that many stakeholders are being engaged including DPW, local volunteer groups, etc. JS responded that FinCom would also be good to engage, school committee, etc.
 - iv. JG: recommended we go to stakeholders with information rather than a framework, e.g., include data from MA climate plans, etc. recommended writing a memorandum rather than a plan.

V. Community Choice Aggregation – SW presenting

- a. SW met with Paul Gromer from Peregrine (Mass PowerChoice is service provider): next step is put the packet in front of DPU and it will take a long time to get approved from there (maybe 18 mos.; this could change with new MA administration).
- b. Input needed from us/the town: name and logo, program options and names, outreach efforts, supply contract review
- c. Another decision needed: funding for the town to hire energy manager -- collect money from individuals? Typically \$0.001/kWh, but small town like Maynard might need \$0.002/kWh
- d. PR: we should talk to another town that is doing this to understand how to do outreach etc. JS: also get case studies from other towns to show how it has worked there
- e. Program options: typical is a 3-offering program structure: standard green (middle of the road), 100% renewable, budget option. Each resident is locked in to their choice for the duration of the contract (min ~6 months)
- f. Need to put our choices and plans in front of selectboard,

VI. Green Meadow school building committee – MSK & KN presenting

- a. Last action item was to write a more quantitative letter requesting deliverables on sustainability to follow up; KN is reviewing now.
- b. JS: four-month extension to original timeline, schematic design will now be due in April, with anticipated town meeting vote in fall. Selectboard asked for a schedule and process for decisions being made to correct past problems with this process
- c. KN: General MSBA had a meeting on Jan 6 about getting selectboard on board. No current meeting schedule posted.
- d. Need to get Kate Crosby and Mark Sandeen (Lexington school person) to meet with selectboard. Topics could include incentives in the IRA and BIL to reduce costs.
- e. FinCom and School Committee are the groups that needs to be on board because we can show that net zero is the most financially prudent decision.
- f. JG: reiterated the risks of NOT going net zero because of future realities with fossil fuels etc.
- g. MSK asked how to leverage selectboard reprimand to get more concrete deliverables into the detailed schematic design. Asked KN what is feasible, how to make sure it gets into that plan.
- h. Add comment requesting school building committee talk to experts from surrounding towns.
- i. Add comment about addressing opportunities in BIL and IRA.
- j. Request adherence to the DOER updated stretch energy code for green communities, compliance required July 2024.

- k. Letter to include request for proposal for carbon accounting vs. theoretical operation of existing green meadow.
- l. KN recommended reducing verbiage from first letter and just including our deliverables list.
- m. Will try to get the letter in front of the school committee, Fincom, selectboard in time for the "tri-board" meeting in Feb.

VII. Waste management task force: meets tomorrow 9/10, OG and MSK attending

VIII. Nature based solutions: no major updates

IX. Hazard mitigation plan advisory group: no major updates

X. Website: SW reminded that there will be a separate website for community choice aggregation. **JS:** new town website will be going live next month, town staff is learning the operation of it. **KW:** Any chance someone on our committee could learn to use it?

XI. Updates on grants: Julie Gagen willing to assist us with these. MAPC Technical Assistance Program (help writing climate action plan for example), new round of MVP grants (hazard mitigation planning), Green Communities grant due in April, Electric vehicles program for charging stations (good to double up on funding sources, e.g., get Green Communities funding as well)

XII. Comments from public

- a. Roger Stillwater: put forth two warrants for comment. Expansion of stretch code is going to confuse the town, need to move as quickly as possible. JG clarification on stretch code process, we are automatically enrolled.
- b. Roger Stillwater: Also comment about net zero, we assured him we are shooting for that, but that waiting until Fall and having more data and education of stakeholders first will be better for the chance of passing.
- c. Roger Stillwater: warrant for a sustainability coordinator (would overlap with the energy coordinator perhaps funded by community choice aggregation)

XIII. Adjourn 8:50 motion KW, second OG, 6-0 in favor