



**FINAL**

**Meeting Minutes  
Alternative Energy Committee**

**TIME:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 7:30 pm

**PLACE:** Town of Cohasset Zoom session

**ATTENDEES:**

**Committee Members**

Tanya Bodell (chair)  
Deborah Cook  
Pat Gooding  
Michael Schmitt  
Steve Wenner

**Excused Absences**

Michael Schmitt  
Josh Staunton

**Guests**

David McMorris, Cohasset resident

**Town Staff**

None

**Unexcused Absences**

None

**1) ALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

**2) MEETING MINUTES**

Steve Wenner moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 10, 2022, seconded by Pat Gooding. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**3) EARTH DAY/ECO FEST**

The AEC will host a table for Clean-up Day on Saturday, April 23, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm and for EcoFest on April 29, 2 pm to 8 pm. Pat Gooding will set up a schedule for members to volunteer.

Steve Wenner has provided some documents from Good Energy about the Community Choice Aggregation project, which will be included on the table, along with an updated poster about



Community Choice Aggregation that Tanya Bodell will arrange to be printed. A representative from NEECO, a partner of MassSave, will share a table with the AEC at both events, and will be available to explain the Mass Save rebates and programs.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tanya Bodell will ask Life on the Rocks for extra copies for the table.

### **3) LIFE ON THE ROCKS**

Tanya Bodell congratulated the AEC for writing excellent articles and participating in the photo shoot for the April edition of Life on the Rocks. The Earth Day issue featured six articles about the AEC's projects and members. She said she had received many positive comments about the articles and the AEC's many projects.

David McMorris commended the AEC and said that he thought the articles were excellent. He was especially intrigued by the microgrid, which motivated his attendance.

### **4) UPDATE ON INITIATIVES**

- **Community Choice Aggregation:** Steve Wenner said the DPU has still not approved Cohasset's compliance filing. A lawyer is looking into what the hold-up is, but Steve also wants to ask state representative Joan Meschino to find out why there has been no action. Steve noted that some towns are renewing their contracts and John O'Rourke told Steve that this will be helpful to test the waters to see what kind of pricing they are able to get.
- **Cohasset Microgrid Project:** Tanya Bodell said that FEMA is still reviewing the Town's microgrid application. She noted that she had a follow-up conversation with National Grid who explained why the microgrid effort is outside of their regulated activities and therefore would not be recovered by tariffs. Normally, this type of request would require the Town to pay for their time to perform the study. However, National Grid has spent 10 months working with the Town of Cohasset on the microgrid project on their own time to develop the design for the FEMA grant application. A more detailed engineering study would require an estimated \$750,000, which is included in the Phase 1 study.

Tanya has spoken with Massachusetts Clean Energy Council (MassCEC) about helping to fund the Town's non-federal share of the Phase 1 study if FEMA awards the project to the Town. MassCEC felt that there was funding for them to be able to support a study, but not necessarily the implementation.



Tanya reported that, based on discussions with the Advisory Committee, Capital Planning Committee and the Select Board, that it was premature to put an article in the warrant asking for Phase 1 funding. Specifically, it made more sense to wait until the Town heard from FEMA and other non-federal funding sources whether to move forward with a request for funding. FEMA should respond in June.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tanya will send David McMorris the ppt microgrid presentation she presented to the selectboard.

**Electric School Buses:** T. Bodell said Enel X is very close to coming up with proposals that are on par with the costs of diesel buses. They are developing four proposals, including a 5-year lease option, which right now is the lowest cost. Tanya is working on getting the Town to sign a Letter of Intent and Non-disclosure Agreement in order to review the proposal.

**GHG Inventory:** The next step is for the BOS to hire a consultant with the MAPC grant money.

**5) DATA REPORT:** Tanya said she has recommended to the Select Board that the Alternative Energy Committee believes that it may be time for them to consider charging for the electricity at the public charging stations. Currently the town is spending about \$500 for electricity each month.

#### **6) MATTERS NOT REASONABLY KNOWN IN ADVANCE**

Steve Wenner asked if there had been any progress on finding a new member for the AEC.

**ACTION ITEM:** Tanya will ask the Select Board liaison Corey Evans to remind the Select Board that the Committee has an empty seat.

## **7) NEXT MEETINGS**

Alternative Energy Committee meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of the month (unless adjusted for holidays) at 7:30 pm. The next meetings currently are planned for:

- May 12, 2022
- June 9, 2022

## **8) ADJOURNMENT**

Pat Gooding made a motion to adjourn, and Steve Wenner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8:05 pm.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

### All Members

- Request authorization from the Select Board to pursue information concerning Climate Action Plans.
- Request the Select Board to allow the Alternative Energy Committee to move forward on using the Green House Gas grant from MAPC for a Green House Gas Inventory.
- Research grant opportunities for funding alternative energy solutions for the Town.
- Collect links for Climate Action Plans in other MA towns.

### Tanya Bodell

- Request copies of Life on the Rocks for the Ecofest and Earth Day tables
- Remind BOS liaison to the AEC Corey Evans to request that the Select Board to appoint one new member to the AEC.
- Arrange for presentation about hydrogen at an upcoming meeting.
- Research the possibility of using hydrogen to power the proposed microgrid's rotating generator.
- Tanya and Michelle Leary to continue open communications with the Town Hall Renovation Committee regarding potential backup options and grant opportunities.

### Debbie Cook

- Continue to pursue monitoring effort of the Go Electric Project.
- Work with Steve Wenner on marketing plan for electrical aggregation.

### Pat Gooding

- Research Climate Action Plans in other communities to provide the basis for development of a Cohasset-specific Climate Action Plan.

### Michelle Leary / Brianna Bennett

- Brianna or Michelle put a link to Good Energy's website on AEC webpage and plan to put it on Cohasset's homepage in a prominent position as soon as the project is underway.
- Michelle Leary to pass along the sample contract to Cohasset's Town Manager and Town Counsel for review.



- Work with Tanya and Faisal to explore waste to heat systems to obtain sufficient background to decide whether the topic has potential opportunity in Cohasset.

**Josh Stanton**

- Discuss social media planning for the AEC at an upcoming meeting.

**Steve Wenner**

- Work with Good Energy to the extent any other assistance is needed to finalize the DPU approval process.
- Develop the outline of a marketing plan to ensure the details of the Community Choice Aggregation Plan and residential options are publicized.