

**Sudbury, MA, Energy and Sustainability Committee  
Meeting Minutes February 19, 2019**

**OPENING:**

The February 19, 2019 meeting of Sudbury’s *Energy and Sustainability Committee* was opened at 7:03pm at the DPW Building conference room.

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Attending</b>
Rami Alwan	X
William Braun – Chairman, Energy and Sustainability Committee	X
Jim Cummings	X
Edward Lewis	X
Joe Martino	
Robert Morrison	X
Mark Sevier	X
<b>Facilities Director, Town of Sudbury</b>	
William Barletta	X
<b>Guests</b>	
James Kelly	X
Bruce Porter	X
Ron Riggert	X
Eric Lind	X
Tom Yelton	X
Maryann Bilodeau – Sudbury Assistant Town Manager	X

**AGENDA:**

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Facilities Director introduction
3. Committee Membership
4. Library Controls project update and closeout
5. Potential Loring Parsonage History Center energy measures funding
6. Future Green Community Grants
7. Community Electricity Aggregation Update
8. Date(s) and topics for next meeting(s)
9. Other business?

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**1) Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes from the April 12, 2018 meeting were approved.

**2) Facilities Director introduction:**

William Barletta became Sudbury's Facilities Director in July of 2018 bringing with him significant facilities and construction experience in the commercial, residential, educational and municipal world.

The Committee heartily welcomes Bill to this critical position and looks forward to working with him on Town projects.

**3) Committee Membership:**

The Energy Committee is chartered to have up to nine voting members, after Kurt's resignation (due to moving out of Town) we currently have two unfilled positions.

To gather potential candidates for these two positions the Town Manager's office will post for 30 days.

Candidates will apply to the Town Manger and will be interviewed by the Board of Selectmen, who appoint all committee members.

Jim Kelly, Sudbury resident, has stated his intent to apply for membership on the Committee. Jim's help in his previous position, as the Town's Building Inspector then Facilities Director, was invaluable to the Energy Committee's mission and we would be thankful to retain the benefits of his skill set and institutional knowledge.

Bill Braun, the Committee Chairman, has announced that due to new work commitments he will be unavailable for Committee meetings starting in April.

The Committee discussed electing a new Chairman this will be reviewed in detail at our next meeting.

The Committee thanks Maryann Bilodeau – Sudbury Assistant Town Manager, who attended our meeting and reviewed the Committee membership rules and process.

**4) Library Controls project update and closeout:**

Goodnow Library EMS / Controls Upgrade – this was a complex project, to save energy and to provide better environmental control at the Library.

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This project has been completed and although energy savings and better comfort have been realized, the facilities director is working to resolve some controls issues and concerns.

The project could benefit from additional commissioning and Bob Morrison and Bill Braun have offered to help with this and the one remaining incentive issue.

**5) Potential Loring Parsonage History Center energy measures funding:**

The Loring Parsonage is undergoing major renovations, and like many older buildings these can be more involved than originally anticipated once the work begins and unseen issues arise. This has created a financial overhang and the Energy Committee was asked to consider assisting with funding for energy related items.

The Energy Committee does not have a budget, but are able to recommend energy and sustainability projects be funded from a revolving account set up at Town Meeting to capture a percentage of the revenue generated by the Solar 1 array on the landfill.

The revolving fund is targeted for projects that decrease Sudbury's energy usage and reduce our carbon footprint.

Significant discussion revolved around Parsonage projects and what 'above code' areas might be potentially financed from the revolving fund, justified on a reduction in energy use.

Upgraded insulation / air sealing were discussed as a potential, as was an attic envelop redesign to increase the efficiency of the attic system.

**ACTION:** Bill Barletta to provide drawings to Bob and Mark to review for potential projects to increase the efficiency of the attic system and perhaps increase controls.

**6) Future Green Community & other Grants:**

- 1) The VW settlement (over the diesel emissions tampering) has just released an opportunity for grants for Cities and Towns to replace heavy equipment with more efficient models.

**ACTION:** Rami to send Bill Barletta information on this grant opportunity.

- 2) The High School is considering a grant opportunity to provide EV charging stations. These would be located in the HS parking area and would be available to the public. How to pay for the electricity used for charging was discussed. In an effort to help promulgate Electric Vehicle adoption and reduce Sudbury's greenhouse gas emissions and Carbon Footprint the Energy Committee voted unanimously to recommend funding the electricity charges for these chargers from the revolving fund up to \$1,500 per year.

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- 3) The Library Boiler plant was brought up as a potential grant funding project. This will be considered for future grant opportunities.

7) **Community Electricity Aggregation Program:**

The goals of Sudbury's Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program are to increase the renewable energy content of residents and small business electricity supply, to help drive new renewable projects in the New England area and to provide stable pricing over the life of the contract.

Sudbury's program is doing that and is also saving residents money on their electric bills. Savings are typically seen over the life of programs like these, however they can not be guaranteed due to Eversource price change every six months.

By State law aggregations require opt-out so everyone who was on Eversource Basic rate was included in the aggregation, unless they opted out.

The default rate "Sudbury Local Green" is \$0.10749 for 19% total renewable generated electricity (5% above the State required 14% green energy.)

Also available are "Sudbury Premium One Hundred Local Green" with 100% local renewable energy, at \$0.13124/kWh, along with "Sudbury Basic" – with only the State mandated renewable content (currently 14%) at \$0.10624/kWh.

For reference – Eversource basic electrical supply is 14% green power and was priced at \$0.10759/kWh for July thru December 2018 and is \$0.13157 for January thru June 2019. By law Eversource reprices electrical supply every six months.

With these program typically over 90% of the participants use the default rate while only a few percent opt up to 100% renewable or opt down to state mandated 14% renewable basic rate.

The 100% renewable option does reduce Sudbury's carbon footprint to a greater extent and drives / helps finance more renewable generation in New England.

We had several guests who wanted to discuss potential methods to increase Sudbury resident's participation in the 100% renewable option.

There is significant interest in this as the Eversource basic winter rates are currently higher than the Sudbury 100% green rates. Historically, Eversource winter rates are higher than their summer rates.

Suggestions to increase Sudbury's opt-up participation included petitioning the Selectmen / Town Meeting to increase the default percentage renewable, increasing the default when the contract is up for renewal, and conducting an educational outreach program to encourage residents to 'opt-up' to 100% Local Green.

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Our current CCA contract runs from August of 2017 to August of 2020. Our understanding is that we are unable to change the default opt-in renewable rate / cost during the contract term. This would also be counter to the information provided to the Sudbury residents about a stable price for the 36 month contract. However we can, and will, look at increasing the percentage renewables in the default for the next contract.

Recent CCA's in neighboring towns have received favorable pricing at significantly higher percentages of green power.

Bob Morrison had already been working on an educational program to encourage residents to opt up to 100% green. Bob will work with Sustainable Sudbury to launch an information program encouraging residents opt up to 100% green. A resident can opt up by phone, web or mail.

The Committee feels this is a great idea and thanks Bob and Sustainable Sudbury for the positive work.

**ACTION:** Ed to research CCA's from Arlington, Newton and Ashland to report at the next meeting the rates, renewable percentage and type.

**ACTION:** Bill Barletta to get the current information for Sudbury's CCA in terms of % applicable accounts enrolled overall, and how many have opted up or down originally and since the program began.

**8) Date(s) and topics for next meeting(s):**

Scheduled Energy Committee Meetings: (DPW Building conference room)

The public is welcome at all meetings.

March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

**9) Other Business?**

**Adjournment:** The Energy Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

*Minutes submitted by: Edward Lewis, March 13, 2019*