

**Sudbury, MA, Energy and Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes April 1st, 2020**

OPENING:

The April 1st, 2020 meeting of Sudbury’s *Energy and Sustainability Committee* was opened at 6:00pm. NOTE – this meeting was held remotely per new State regulations – the remote participant information was posted, in accordance with updated Open Meeting Law, with the agenda on the Town website.

ATTENDANCE: (remote)

Committee Members	Attending
Rami Alwan - Chairman, Energy and Sustainability Committee	X
Gary Bean	X
Jim Cummings	X
Edward Lewis	X
Joe Martino	X
Ken Nathanson	X
Mark Sevier	X
Facilities Director, Town of Sudbury	
William Barletta	X
Guests	
Stefano Loretto, Good Energy	X
Janie Dretler	X
Kathy Jacob	X

AGENDA:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Energy aggregation renewal, next steps and schedule – Stefano Loretto, Good Energy
3. Green Communities Application
4. Charging Stations
5. Other business?

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1) Approval of Meeting Minutes:

March 4th meeting minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2) Energy aggregation renewal, next steps and schedule – Stefano Loretto, Good Energy

Stefano Loretto, from Good Energy, the Town's Aggregation Consultant, joined our Zoom meeting.

The Town-wide Electricity Aggregation contract is up for renewal in August. The Energy Committee guides the bidding specifications for our aggregation consultant and recommends energy options (renewable energy percentages and composition) to the Town for adoption.

Good Energy has been working with several other municipalities who have renewed their aggregation contracts, some examples include Arlington and Somerville, who have gone from 5% to 10% additional green energy. Although a doubling of the green content is good, the Energy Committee, with significant input from residents, is striving to include much, much more renewable energy and we discussed 100% renewable as the default.

Good Energy did not recommend going 100% renewable as the default due to the cost. Currently, good Energy utilizes a captive supplier for 'special' Mass Class 1 REC's. These REC's (Renewable Energy Credits) do not contain bio-mass or small hydro power and are more expensive than standard Mass Class 1 REC's.

We had a significant discussion on methods to greatly increase the renewable content of Sudbury's aggregation offerings. These included using standard Mass Class 1 REC's along with supplementing with wind REC's. The Mass Class 1 REC's do support local renewable energy projects, however the pure wind REC's are a much less expensive offering of renewable energy, but are typically from out of State. However, they would still offset fossil fuel generation and pollution does not stop at state borders.

A bidding strategy discussed and agreed to would be to get a base bid with the State mandated renewable content (currently 16%) along with the pricing on a per percentage basis to add in special and standard MA Class 1's and wind REC's. This would allow us to price any configuration of renewable content.

We will ask for indicative bids of various length of contracts – the electricity market is very volatile right now, however, there are advantages to having the next contract expire during the Eversource winter rates (Jan – June).

Due to time constraints it was decided to have the next meeting on April 7th to review the various renewable energy REC options, Mass Class 1, Green Consumers special Class 1's and Texas Wind.

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ACTION PLAN:

- Meet with Good Energy in April to discuss renewable alternatives
- Go for indicative pricing bids in late April / early May – determine default option
- Meet / brief Select Board in June
- Go for and secure final bids
- New program contract starts with September meter reads

3) Green Communities application

The VFD (variable frequency drive) and DPW LED lighting projects from Guardian Energy were discussed. These projects increase circulating pumps efficiency and provide better, more efficient lighting, with less maintenance, at the DPW.

Sudbury has worked with Guardian Energy before and have been happy with the results.

After review of the projects the Committed voted unanimously to submit these projects to the State for potential Green Community Funding. These are competitive grants and each project may or may not be funded on an individual basis. There are currently 271 Green Communities in Mass, all competing to fund projects from the same limited pool of money.

The Committee also voted unanimously to provide 10% of each project funding from the Solar Revolving Fund – which was set up to increase energy efficiency in Sudbury. The Green Communities Division looks favorably on Grant requests that include some amount of Town funding, and, although no funding is guaranteed, in the past projects with some Town funding were more likely to be accepted.

ACTION: Bill Barletta will submit for potential grant funding with help from the Committee if needed.

4) Future of Electric Chargers in Sudbury – report on surrounding communities

The Energy Committee works to stay informed about sustainability initiatives in surrounding Towns, in particular their EV charging station deployment plans.

Joe Martino provided the following written and verbal update to the Committee on recent Wayland developments.

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**Energy Conservation Highlights
for Proposed Residential Developments in Wayland**

Alta at River's Edge, 484-490 Boston Post Road

- **8.25 acre** Wayland-owned site bordering Sudbury land near Landfill and Transfer Station
- **218-unit** multi-family rental residential community
- 55 units designated as “affordable” (25% of total)
- **344** Parking Spaces: 180 garage and 164 surface
- Plan has 3 multi-story buildings
- Main access will be via existing driveway on Boston Post Rd. (Rte. 20)
- Final updated plan approved by Wayland Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) on 12/17/2019 (Prior unanimous recommendation from Wayland Planning Board)
- **Energy Conservation features:**
 - **Building Design & Construction**
 - Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code
 - National Green Building Standard (Silver)
 - Includes Heating/Cooling, Hot Water, Plumbing, LED Lighting, Appliances, Windows, Solar, EV Stations
 - **Roof-top Solar**
 - **100** PV-array panels
 - Approx. **40,000 KWh** per year
 - **EV Charging Stations**
 - **48** stations planned (14% of parking spaces)
 - **12** at occupancy / **36** later (!?)

Cascade Wayland, 113-119 Boston Post Road

- **6.49 acre** former site of **Mahoney Garden Center**
- **60-unit** rental residential project, under Chapter 40B
- 15 units designated as “affordable” (25% of total)
- Project proposal was initiated in 2016 but shows little apparent progress since early 2018 due to unresolved environmental impact issues, architectural design issues, and abutter concerns
- In early 2019, the Developer filed an appeal to the Mass. Housing Appeals Committee
- No further status information at this time

The Committee thanks Joe for his research and update.

This led to another spirited discussion revolving around the potential implementation of EV charging stations deployed by and in the Town.

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One discussion thread asked if the Committee should consider recommending some type of Town Ordinance that would require deployment of EV Charging stations / infrastructure at new commercial developments.

Ed mentioned that an upcoming State wide building code, the 2021 IECC code, may have a code requirement that covers this.

ACTION: Ed to find language of proposed code and review with the Committee.

5) Other Business?

The Annual Town Report on Energy Committee activities is due for submission. Previously Ed drafted and distributed to the Committee. Several suggestions were received, these have been incorporated and the updated draft will be distributed for discussion / acceptance vote at our next meeting.

The Town has three Big Belly trash receptacles that were given to us when Sudbury was designated a Green Community in 2010.

These have been in use for 10 years and the electro-mechanical features are not functioning as intended and they may be approaching the end of their useful life. Bill asked the Committee if they knew of any restrictions / covenants placed on these when given to the town – none are known. Bill to investigate repair / replacement of these then discuss with Committee the path going forward.

6) Dates for next meetings:

Scheduled Energy Committee Meetings: (NOTE – meetings will be held remotely until further notice)

The public is welcome at all meetings – remote sign-in instructions are available on the agenda posted on the Town’s website.

April 7th, at 6:00PM

May 20th, at 6:00PM

June 17th, at 6:00PM

Adjournment: The Energy Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Edward Lewis on April 3rd, 2020