

**Town of Sudbury
Energy and Sustainability Committee
Wednesday, August 9, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Opening:

The meeting of Sudbury’s *Energy and Sustainability Committee* was opened at 5:32 pm on virtually.

Attendance:

Committee Members	Attending
Rami Alwan - Chair, Energy and Sustainability Committee	Y
Ken Nathanson	
Jim Cummings	
Venk Gopal	Y
Joe Martino	Y
Olga Faktorovich Allen	Y
Nate Garazzo	Y
Facilities Department, Town of Sudbury	
Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director	Y
Dani Marini-King, Sustainability Coordinator	Y
Guests	
Lynn Puorro, Sudbury TV	Y
Tom Yelton	Y
Jennifer Roberts, Select Board Member	Y

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

R. Alwan called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

2. Confirmation of Quorum

Five (5) of the Seven (7) Energy and Sustainability (ESC) members were present, confirming the presence of a quorum.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

No action was taken on previous meeting minutes.

4. Fire Station 3 Roof Study Funding (continued)

Discussion of funding the Fire Station 3 Roof Study continued from the July 12, 2023 meeting. R. Alwan stated that he spoke with Elaine Jones, member of the Permanent Building Committee (PBC), and the PBC was not involved in the Fire Station 3 Roof project. He stated that there is a significant leak at Fire Station 3 so it needs a new roof. At Annual

Town Meeting, \$86,000 was approved to repair and replace this roof. S. Duran stated that the Article was passed before she joined as Combined Facilities Director, and did not take into consideration an updated stretch energy code or have the roof be designed to be solar ready. She said that the solar array will be small, and that it may not make sense to have a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) due to the size. The Town is currently working with Solect Energy on Fire Station 2's solar project, and the design should be the same for Fire Station 3.

O. Faktorovich Allen brought up setting precedent for future projects. She stated that the ESC should model providing funding and supporting similar projects like this one that advance the goals of the ESC. S. Duran stated that the schools may be considered for solar activities in the future, but those projects will need to have the entire funding up front. R. Alwan stated that the design should be a part of the funding request at Town Meeting for these kinds of projects. O. Faktorovich Allen stated that there needs to be clarity on costs so the Town can provide the right amount of money from each source of funding.

R. Alwan stated that the Fire Station 3 roof project was a special case, but that there should not be a precedent for the ESC to fund design for future projects. The ESC members present agreed.

R. Alwan asked if the other ESC members would agree to splitting the cost of the Fire Station 3 Roof Study with the Facilities Department. N. Garazzo agreed that splitting the costs was a fine idea. V. Gopal also agreed and stated that funding this design helps to advance the objectives of the ESC.

R. Alwan made a motion to share the design costs with the Facilities Department and provide \$6,000 in funding for the roof replacement at the North Sudbury Fire Station (Fire Station 3) to ensure it meets the new Stretch Energy Code and that it will be Solar Ready on completion. N. Garazzo seconded the motion. **The ESC voted unanimously in favor of providing \$6,000 in funding for the roof replacement at the North Sudbury Fire Station (Fire Station 3) to ensure it meets the new Stretch Energy Code and that it will be Solar Ready on completion: Alwan-aye, Gopal-aye, Martino-aye, Faktorovich Allen-aye, Garazzo-aye.**

5. Atkinson Pool Solar Roof Design Funding

S. Duran gave an update on the status of the Atkinson Pool. She stated that there is not proposal yet for this project but she has been discussing with Solect Energy about putting a solar panels on the pool roof. Duran said that the Facilities Department will be going to Special Town Meeting with a request to fund a number of repairs for the pool, including grout work, ventilation, and air conditioning. She stated that there is no proposal or request for funding for the ESC to consider yet, but wanted to put this on the Committee's radar.

J. Martino asked where things were left at the last Town Meeting regarding the natatorium. S. Duran stated that funding for a water filtration system was approved at the last Town Meeting. However, the grout issue was not known at the time of the last

Town Meeting. She stated that divers were needed to look at it, and once the water was gone, it was very clear that the pool needed to be completely regouted. Duran stated that she pulled the dehumidification article from the last Town Meeting because the Town wanted to look comprehensively at the Atkinson Pool repairs. O. Faktorovich Allen stated that it would be great to ensure that climate-friendly refrigerants are used when looking at air conditioning options as these contribute to global warming.

R. Alwan asked if the natatorium roof is solar ready. S. Duran replied that it should be perfectly fine for the size of the system.

6. Sustainability Coordinator Update

a. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

D. Marini-King gave an update on the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory project. She stated that the Town went out to bid at the end of last month to secure a consultant to perform a Community-wide and Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. The bid deadline was August 3rd. Marini-King stated that the Town received two (2) proposals in total, and that both were under review. The Town hopes to select an apparent winner and sign a contract for this project by the end of August so that the Town can kickoff the inventory process in September. D. Marini-King stated that the Town hopes to complete the inventory by February or March of 2024. Once completed, the ESC and the Town will have data on what sectors are having the most impact on the Town's GHG emissions., and can start targeting projects that will help reduce emissions in these areas.

b. MVP 2.0 Pilot Program

D. Marini-King gave an update on the MVP 2.0 Pilot Program. She stated that the Town was notified that Sudbury was selected to receive an MVP 2.0 grant award. Marini-King had an unofficial kickoff with the MVP Regional Coordinator to learn more about the process. She stated that the State (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) has not officially announced the award winners, so the ESC cannot publicly advertise that the Town was selected to receive the award yet. D. Marini-King stated that she attended a prior Select Board meeting so that the Select Board could vote to accept the grant funds, but the Town cannot announce the grant more officially beyond that. The Town Manager signed a contract from the State and is waiting for the State to countersign. Funding will be provided up front to pay for consulting services. Once the contract is countersigned, the Town will go out bid to select a vendor to guide the Town through this planning process. Marini-King stated that this planning process will be more focused on social resilience. She said that this project will be a two-year process starting sometime this fall. The first year will be focused on planning and community engagement to identify who the Town's vulnerable populations are and where are they most vulnerable. In the following year, Marini-King stated that the Town will receive funding to implement a project or idea that was come up with through that first year's planning process. For the first year, Marini-King stated that the Town will receive \$45,000 to fund the planning and community engagement, as well as

provide funding to pay for community liaison involvement. In the second year, the Town will receive up to \$50,000 to implement the select seed project.

O. Faktorovich Allen expressed her excitement regarding being selected for the grant award and stated how critical it will be to complete the geospatial climate vulnerability assessment that will highlight what physical assets in Town are at risk and how much at risk in order to compliment the MVP 2.0 planning process. She asked if there was an update to the Climate Risk Assessment Request for Proposals (RFP). D. Marini-King stated that there is no update yet as she was waiting to see whether the Town was going to be selected for the MVP 2.0 program, so that she could rework the RFP so that it speaks to the scope of the MVP 2.0 plan as well.

c. Brainstorm Policies, Procedures, and Programs for the Town to Adopt

D. Marini-King began a brainstorming session for sustainability and climate-related policies, procedures, and programs that the Town of Sudbury should look to adopt.

O. Faktorovich Allen stated that the GHG inventory should help guide them in understanding where the hotspots are and where most of our GHG emissions are coming from. She suggested introducing a bylaw that bans gas-powered lawn equipment. The Town of Lexington recently did this. Gas-powered lawn equipment contributes to pollution and increased GHG emissions. She also suggested implementing a fossil-free new construction policy. She stated that both of these policies will likely meet some resistance, so it will require a lot of engagement, education, and relationship building to gain buy-in.

O. Faktorovich Allen asked for an update regarding the gas leaks study. D. Marini-King stated that there was no update with the gas leaks study yet. She said that with the other projects taking higher priority, the gas leaks study got pushed off to the side for now.

V. Gopal stated that he is currently checking with Eversource on solar panels and how the Town can facilitate the growth of solar panels in Town. He stated that he is looking into how the Town can engage with Eversource since they do distribution planning. He said that they can show where there are favorable areas for solar panel installation, and this could potentially be a mechanism for encouraging solar panel growth in Town.

7. Future Meeting Topics and Schedule

R. Alwan asked for clarity on purchasing the solar panels for the First Station 2 project. He asked if the Town would have the bandwidth to maintain solar panels on their own. S. Duran replied yes, stating that Solect Energy said that the size of the array will be too small to make sense to carry a PPA on it. R. Alwan stated that he wouldn't be averse to purchasing that.

J. Martino asked if there was an update on the gas leaks study. D. Marini-King said that there are no updates on the gas leaks study. She stated that with the other projects taking priority, the gas leaks study has halted for now. She said that she did contact the Towns of Acton and Wellesley to see which vendor they used to conduct their gas leaks study. D. Marini-King stated that she reached out to that vendor but has not heard back yet.

R. Alwan stated that there was an MIT group that was integral in the larger 10-Town study that Acton and Wellesley were a part of. R. Alwan mentioned that he had a conversation about modular concrete construction. He stated that this MIT group was looking at making modular concrete pieces that lock together and each piece would have a QR code on them to know where they are and be able to move them as needed.

It was decided that the next ESC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12th at 5:30 pm.

J. Martino made a motion to adjourn the ESC meeting. R. Alwan seconded the motion. **The ESC voted unanimously in favor of adjourning the ESC meeting at 6:29 pm: Alwan-aye, Gopal-aye, Martino-aye, Faktorovich Allen-aye, Garazzo-aye.**