

**Town of Sudbury
Energy and Sustainability Committee
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
Meeting Minutes**

Opening:

The meeting of Sudbury’s *Energy and Sustainability Committee* was opened at 5:37 pm.

Attendance:

Committee Members	Attending
Rami Alwan - Chair, Energy and Sustainability Committee	Y
Ken Nathanson	
Jim Cummings	Y
Venk Gopal	N
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
Cy Martin-Bell	Y
Elsa Iovanella	Y
Kay Bell	Y
Ron Riggert	Y

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

R. Alwan called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

2. Confirmation of Quorum

Five (5) of 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. Introduce and Interview Potential Energy and Sustainability Committee Member, Elsa Iovanella

R. Alwan introduced Elsa Iovanella, a prospective Energy and Sustainability Committee member. E. Iovanella discussed that her and her husband moved to Sudbury last September during the COVID-19 pandemic and that she joined Brown Advisory when she moved here to work as a sustainable investor. She stated that she wants to leverage her skills to help benefit the community.

S. Duran asked what kind of things E. Iovanella thinks she invests in. E. Iovanella stated that she develops strategies for private endowments to invest in a collection of stocks that they feel has a strong profile from an environmental, social, and governance perspective. Additionally, she stated that she also helps clients find projects with energy transition, climate change, and diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies to invest in.

S. Duran asked the order of magnitude for the investments that she deals with. E. Iovanella stated that it depends on the strategy, though assets under management (AUM) is 160 billion. She stated that large cap sustainable growth strategies would be around 20-30 billion dollars, and some smaller scale strategies may be millions of dollars.

N. Garazzo stated that he found it interesting and inspiring that she studied Italian in college and shifted to work in this field. He asked how she ended up making this change. E. Iovanella stated that while studying Italian, she was able to learn a broad liberal arts education. She said that the first job that she took was at a non-profit speaking Italian and fundraising for a major cancer institute in New York. From there, she shifted into financial services and honed her interest in helping people channel their investment dollars to good causes.

O. Faktorovich asked E. Iovanella how she is looking to apply her ESG investment skills to a Town perspective. E. Iovanella stated that the environmental work that she does will apply to this role. She said that she consumes a lot of research on fossil fuel divestment and renewable energy projects that could be applied to a Town level.

S. Duran asked E. Iovanella how she sees herself benefitting from the Committee and what she believes her strongest asset is. E. Iovanella stated that she has a pretty strong understanding of the regulatory environment around the climate, and about the implications of and how to apply the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). She said that she has also worked with consultants on greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and can offer best practices and lessons learned.

R. Alwan made a motion to elect Elsa Iovanella to the Energy and Sustainability Committee. O. Faktorovich Allen seconded the motion. **The ESC voted unanimously in favor of electing Elsa Iovanella to the Energy and Sustainability Committee.**

5. Aggregation Program Outreach Discussion

D. Marini-King began a discussion on outreach for the changing Aggregation Program rates. She stated, there has been an increase in the number of residents calling or coming into the office asking about the aggregation program and the changing rates. She stated that she wanted the Committee to brainstorm ideas to inform the residents about the aggregation program. She discussed that there may be some concern about the changes and that the Committee should try to get ahead of it so that we don't lose anyone when that transfer happens. She also stated that there have been some scam flyers being sent out to get residents to jump onto other energy saving programs which is causing additional confusion. She asked what the Committee used as a strategy the last time the rates changed and if there were any other ideas about how to get the word out early.

J. Martino asked if there was a flyer that went out last time about the changing rates. R. Alwan said that three years ago Good Energy took care of sending out a flyer. He said that by law, they are required to send out a flyer which will have the new rates and a link to their website. He said that the Town's energy rates are still under Eversource's current rates and are still very competitive. He mentioned that he had also seen scam flyers in the mail and that the Attorney General is trying to put an end to this. J. Martino agreed and stated that he had also received a few scam flyers with misinformation on them.

O. Faktorovich Allen asked if the Good Energy flyer will have Town of Sudbury branding on it. R. Alwan stated that he believed the last flyer had the Town seal on it. O. Faktorovich Allen asked what the timeline for the engagement strategy was. R. Alwan stated that the contract goes into effect January 1st, so the letter with the updated rates will need to go out 60 days before that. He stated that the letter should go out the end of October or beginning of November. He recalled that last time, phone calls and emails came in around that time about the changing rates.

O. Faktorovich Allen stated that this is an opportunity to engage in community education and outreach with several community events coming up. She also stated that the Committee could leverage the school and Town newsletters, door to door engagement, and partnerships with Sustainable Sudbury and other community-based organizations to advertise this and other goals that the Committee is working on.

R. Alwan stated that when residents are running for office, they go to the Town Transfer Station to meet and engage with other residents. He suggested selecting a few Saturdays to table at the Transfer Station. O. Faktorovich Allen suggested submitting an op-ed in the Sudbury Weekly.

N. Garazzo asked if the Committee could put together their own newsletter per month about what the Committee is working on. O. Faktorovich Allen stated that a newsletter would be great, but take a significant level of effort to do it monthly to create an engaging and visually attractive product. She asked D. Marini-King if this is something she has considered doing. D. Marini-King stated that she has submitted to the Municipal Update newsletter before, but thinks that a newsletter coming from the ESC would be beneficial.

She stated that doing a monthly newsletter would be difficult, but a quarterly one would be more manageable.

S. Duran stated that there will be confusion with getting an additional correspondence in the middle of our contract and that residents will not know what the correspondence is or what they are supposed to do with it. She also read a message received from Kay Bell, an attendee at the meeting, suggesting that the Committee host an information session at the Senior Center.

D. Marini-King asked what we would want to see as a deliverable for this action item at the next Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting. S. Duran stated that Good Energy will be creating a draft flyer, so for the next meeting they should discuss a draft strategy for how to do outreach. She reiterated that Good Energy will be creating the outreach materials as a part of their contract.

J. Martino asked when Good Energy will have a draft flyer for the Committee to look at. R. Alwan said that he thought a draft would be ready within the next month. He stated that he would ask Stefano if the Committee can take a look at them before they go out.

6. Combined Facilities Director Updates and Requests

a. Discussion and Vote on Department of Public Works (DPW) Roof and Solar

S. Duran gave an update on the status of the Department of Public Works (DPW) roof and solar project. She stated that Russo Barr has provided a preliminary draft of their study and that she is hoping to get some questions answered on that. She said that they are suggesting a rubber coating which she has some concerns about. She stated that the cost estimate is trending to be about \$101,000 more than the article that she received. She requested from the Committee that gaps in the money available to install a new roof be considered for funding from the Solar Revolving Account.

R. Alwan stated that he personally doesn't have an issue with funding the gap because we'll end up saving in the end with money from the solar array being installed on top of it.

R. Alwan instructed S. Duran to come back to the Committee once this project goes out to bid and they have the true numbers back.

7. Sustainability Coordinator Updates

a. EV Chargers at Police Station and DPW

D. Marini-King gave an update on the electric vehicle (EV) charger projects at the DPW and the Police Station. She stated that the EV charger at the Police Station has been installed, but has not been activated yet and a sub-panel still needs to be installed. She also said that the EV charger project began last Friday and they expect to get the chargers delivered to the DPW sometime this week, though the

storm could potentially delay the delivery. She stated that they have been reconfiguring the wiring in the electrical room and brought a new conduit out to the new location for the new charger.

J. Martino asked if there were two chargers at the Police Station. D. Marini replies that there is one EV charger at the Police Station, but there are two charging ports. And also said that there will be two chargers at the DPW with two charging ports each.

b. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory

D. Marini reminded the Committee that the Town went out to bid at the end of July to find a consultant to perform a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory as well as a Consumption-Based Emissions Inventory. She stated that the review of those proposals has been completed and the Town selected Kim Lundgren Associates as the apparent winner. D. Marini said that the Town is developing a contract with the consultants, and once that is finalized, the Select Board will need to authorize the Town Manager to sign the contract. She said that the authorization vote is on the Select Board's agenda for their meeting on September 26th.

c. MVP 2.0 Pilot Program

D. Marini relayed to the Committee that the EEA officially announced the MVP 2.0 Pilot Program grant winners, so the Town can officially announce receipt of the grant award. She stated that the Request for Proposals (RFP) has already been drafted and is under review by the Town. She said that the Select Board will need to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract for consulting services on this project as well. D. Marini also said that she attended the first MVP regional cohort meeting today and that it went really well and provided an opportunity for participating municipalities to ask questions and work through this new program together.

O. Faktorovich Allen asked for an update regarding the Climate Risk Geospatial Analysis. D. Marini asked S. Duran if she was still completing her review of the Climate Risk Assessment RFP. S. Duran stated that she is still reviewing the RFP.

8. Future Meeting Topics and Schedule

N. Garazzo revisited sustainable policies that were discussed at the previous Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting.

O. Faktorovich Allen stated that it would be helpful to come up with the Committee's top three messages that they want every resident in Sudbury to know. She stated that the MVP planning process and the Climate Risk Assessment will provide data and maps that we can bring to other departments and stakeholders in Town to get these messages across.

R. Alwan stated that the next Energy and Sustainability Committee will be on Wednesday, October 11th at 5:30 PM.

R. Alwan made and J. Martino seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Energy and Sustainability Committee voted unanimously in favor of adjourning the Energy and Sustainability Committee at 6:46 pm.