



Energy & Sustainability Committee
Thursday, June 15, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting - Minutes

Attendees:

Bob Dorer, Chair
John Shutkin
Christine Rabinowitz
Margot Fleischman
Emily Prince (meeting minutes)
Patricia Fabian
Taissir Alani (Facilities Department)
Ron Scaltetro (Facilities Department)

Absent:

Dan Bostwick
Chris Gittins (Planning Board Liaison)

Members of the public:

Renu Bostwick
Karen Willson
Erin Dorr

Bob Dorer called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and read the Governor's Order on meeting remote participation.

1. Public Comment

Karen Willson – explained that the Mothers Out Front letter in support of the stretch code was intended as a helpful reminder to ESC to publicly support the specialized stretch code.

2. Review and Approval of May 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes approved 6-0 with minor typo correction. John Shutkin moved to approve meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by Emily Prince.

3. Energy & Sustainability Manager Status Update



No update. The focus is on hiring a new town manager.

4. Adoption of the Specialized Stretch Code

Bob Dorer noted that the specialized stretch code is on the Select Board agenda on June 26, 2023. It was agreed that the Committee should draft a letter to the Select Board in support of the specialized stretch code. Bob Dorer will draft and submit the letter on behalf of the ESC in advance of the June 26, 2023, meeting. The protocol for letter submissions and open meeting law considerations were discussed.

Margot Fleischman noted that Renu Bostwick, on behalf of Mothers Out Front, submitted a letter in support of the stretch code to the Committee. There was general agreement that the letter would serve as a good starting point for ESC's letter in support of the stretch code. John Shutkin highlighted the Mothers Out Front letter was substantively sound and served as a served as a helpful reminder to ESC of the timeline for the stretch code discussion.

Christine Rabinowitz moved for ESC to send a letter in support of the specialized stretch code to the Select Board. Seconded by Patricia Fabian. Motion approved 5-0-1. Margot Fleischman abstained.

5. Ongoing Status Updates

a. School Composting & Diversion Initiatives: Erin Dorr (Bedford Facilities) presented an update on the school waste diversion initiative. Erin noted that the JGMS composting, and Lane school food share cart have been very successful. The programs are supported by the kitchen staff, facilities department, and school administration. The kids are doing an excellent job!

Lane food share cart update: Erin reported that on average, 20-30 items transition in and out of the share cart daily. Kids are very interested in the process. Principal Rob Ackerman is very supportive of the food share cart. The excess food is stored in a refrigerator in the office and is available for hungry kids throughout the school day. Erin is tracking food preferences and trends so that adjustments can be considered in the future.

JGMS composting update: Erin reported that the food service and custodial teams are very supportive of the initiative and engaged in the process. JGMS had been using Styrofoam trays during the last lunch period due to staffing concerns and heat in the kitchen. Erin recently spoke to the Assistant Director of Food Services about Styrofoam use and explained that there is more confusion when Styrofoam trays are used. Based on this feedback, the Assistant Director of Food Services asked the staff to stick to reusable trays, which has significantly reduced Styrofoam use.



The JGMS share fridge is very popular and receives approximately 50 items a day. Kids drop sealed items from home like granola bars, cheese sticks, packaged crackers etc. Erin reported that the students are being respectful, and the process is working very well. The share fridge saves students money and reduces waste.

JGMS cafeteria composting has significantly reduced waste. Prior to composting, trash was over 100 pounds daily. This has been reduced to 20 pounds a day. The Facilities Department met with incoming Superintendent Cliff Chuang, who seems very supportive of the food waste diversion program. Facilities plans to continue the program and roll out composting and the share cart to other schools next year.

Margot Fleischman asked whether there is an educational component and whether visual illustrations of the waste reduction/program success curious have been made available to the students. The idea of having a pie chart reflecting the waste reduction and a friendly competition between the schools was discussed. Erin has shared the program results with Superintendent Conrad and the School Committee. Additionally, Erin shared the waste reduction success with JGMS Principal, John Hartunian, who shared with students in a quiz style. He asked students to guess how much weight was liquid, how much food was in trash, etc. Erin shared that she is working with the JGMS science teachers to incorporate composting into their lesson plans.

Taissir Alani reported that there is a noticeable difference in the weight of the trash and that the JGMS custodians are very pleased.

Christine Rabinowitz and Emily Prince have been monitoring the Lane share cart and noted the program's success and buy-in from staff.

Erin Dorr reported that the textile bins collect approximately 50,000 pounds of textiles over the course of the school year. The textile recycling program provides a rebate to the schools.

6. Ongoing Status Updates

- a. **Residential Composting:** Christine Rabinowitz noted that there are 353 Black Earth participants, which is an increase of four households since May. There are 45 households participating in the Carlisle Road drop-off site, which is consistent with last month. Mothers Out Front printed 200 cards that members distributed around their neighborhoods, however, these efforts did not have a material impact on participation.
- b. **Anti-Idling School Collaboration** – no update.
- c. **Community Choice Aggregation:** Bob Dorer noted that Eversource released the July 2023 – December 2023 electricity rates and that the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program continues to provide savings to participants.



Ron Scaltetro spoke to Alison Cservenschi, Director of the Council on Aging (COA) who spoke to a resident who was looking for information about the CCA program. Alison noted that seniors might have difficulty navigating the CCA website. To address this, they put together a list of items needed to register for CCA. Ron will follow up with Alison about including CCA information in the COA newsletter. Bob suggested submitting an article highlighting the benefits of CCA to the COA newsletter and Bedford Citizen.

- d. Town Buildings Energy Update:** Taissir Alani reported that he worked on the 15-year energy plan this afternoon. Facilities recently obtained a state grant for technical assistance regarding a roadmap toward net zero. The municipal electricity contract consists of 100% renewable until end of the 2023. Erin Dorr contacted Eversource to see if they could offer a free energy assessment to the municipal buildings. This type of energy assessment is more intensive than MassSave and involves Eversource hiring a consulting firm to determine building energy optimization.

Police station: Taissir Alani reported that the police station is 99% complete and is very energy efficient. He has received compliments from several residents and a member of the Historic District Commission on the building exterior. Taissir noted that Chief of Police and staff reported a very comfortable climate. The energy emissions have been steady to date. Facilities is working with a controls contractor to finalize controls. Taissir explained that police dispatch will always have control over energy, but other rooms can be reduced. The electric boiler capacity was reduced from six to four. The building is running at 60% of what Facilities thought would be needed. The building envelope is very well sealed.

e. Neighboring Towns and Regional Projects and Programs of Interest

Hanscom Field Private/Executive Jet Hanger and Servicing Proposed Expansion: Patricia Fabian drafted a letter to the Select Board in opposition to the proposed expansion, which the Committee reviewed and edited. John Shutkin moved to send the letter as edited by the Committee to the Select Board. Christine Rabinowitz seconded. Motion approved 5-0-1. Patricia will update the letter per comments and Bob Dorer will send to the Select Board.

Bob Dorer noted that 350.org is hosting an upcoming event opposing the proposed private jet expansion.

Christine Rabinowitz discussed the Framingham networked geothermal pilot program, which is the first pilot of its kind run by a utility company. National Grid is planning to break ground in Lowell. The success of these pilot programs will set the tone for future networked geothermal projects.



7. **Future topics for the ESC:** Bob Dorer reminded Committee members to email discussion topics/agenda items to him in advance of meeting postings.
8. **Review of proposed committee webpage updates and proposed agenda items:** Bob Dorer raised the issue of the formal agenda not being posted on the town website. Bob offered to upload the agenda to the website, but needs to check with town staff to see if a non-employee committee member is permitted to upload the agenda to the town website.
9. The Committee recognized John Shutkin and Chris Rabinowitz as departing ESC members, and Taissir Alani as the departing Facilities Director. Margot Fleischman moved to adjourn; Patricia Fabian seconded. The motion to adjourn passed 6-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.