

Energy Action Committee

June 6, 2023; 7:00PM

Minutes

Present

Brad Carr
Tom Morahan
Paul Sprecher
Brad Moyer
James Byrne

Regrets

Abi Sood
Sue Nickerson
Aisha Oppong

Guests / Public

Brianna Bennett

By Agenda Topic

1) Meeting Announcement

The meeting announcement at the end of this document was read

2) Approval of minutes from February meeting

Meeting minutes from the prior meeting were unanimously approved. Brad C. will ask the town to post on the website

3) Heat Pump advocacy

a) Providing Heat Pump resources on the EAC web page

Brad C. provided a draft for Brianna to review and Brianna provided insightful feedback, including expanding the topics beyond heat pumps to include other programs (Solar, Electric Vehicles, LED lights, Energy Star Appliances, Home Energy Assessment, etc.)

b) Brad M. reminded the EAC that the CAPC will discuss Heat Pump actions at its upcoming June meeting based on feedback received from HNZ.

c) The group discussed the merits of restricting new natural gas connections, either generally or for Town of Hingham facilities. In the case of a general restriction, there was concern that certain state regulations may prohibit a ban. In the case of the Town of Hingham, the group felt that there was a significant group of residents who would attend public discussions about new facilities such that a restriction wouldn't be needed. However, the committee agreed to monitor and may revisit the topic in the future.

4) Green School Works – applying for interest per MAPC

The committee discussed a potential funding source offered by MAPC which was initiated by an email forwarded by Virginia LeClair (Ginny) with the subject “State Funding for Energy Technical Assistance”. The email was an offer to express interest in competing for funding on several topics. After some discussion the committee agreed that, of the options Ginny suggested, the priorities to recommend with the expression of interest should be as follows:

a) Developing a net zero emission plan for municipal buildings (this could be an expansion of the CAP and update of the Energy Action Plan, more of an implementation phase)

b) Organize a regional outreach and education programs (i.e. heat pumps)

c) Create template procurement documents and guidance for municipal solar and battery storage (this could be interesting as we are working now with HMLP to create such a document for MLP, but could use technical assistance here)

The committee will seek feedback from Ginny on any future communication and outcome.

- 5) Should we join Power Options (more info at <https://poweroptions.org/>)

The committee briefly discussed Power Options, aided by Brianna who had met with representatives separately. If a non-profit were to join Power Options, it could take advantage of collective bargaining on a number of energy related topics and avoid an RFP process. The committee thought it was a good idea for the town to explore but procurement isn't within the scope of the EAC

- 6) Hingham's 2018 Energy Reduction Plan

Ginny shared Hingham's Energy Reduction Plan and it was discussed in the meeting. Brad M., who had history with the plan, explained that the plan was put together, in part, to gain the Green Communities designation. The plan is administered and tracked by the town. The committee concluded that it would be interesting and a good use of the EAC resources to assist the town in tracking progress against the plan. Art Robert and Ginny LeClair are believed to be the right points of contact for more information.

- 7) Review of 2018 Report and any updates, including reviews / discussion of projects at:

- a) Transportation related

i) EPA has opened the second round of funding for EV School Buses. Information has been shared with Aisha. The deadline for the current round of funding is August 20. Several webinars are being offered by the EPA and other organizations.

ii) Brad to follow up with Aisha

- b) Safety Building

i) The project is moving forward per approval from the Select Committee

ii) There is an objective to continue to find reductions to cost

- c) Foster School

i) No new updates

- d) Hingham High School

i) Ginny is getting updates from HPS regarding the 2018 Energy Reduction Plan

- e) Town Hall

i) No new updates

- f) HMLP

- i) A contractor was selected for the HMLP solar canopy – work is expected to begin in late July
 - ii) Work began with a design contractor for the solar array at the transfer station
 - iii) 3 Level 3 chargers are still planned for the summer
 - iv) Another level 2 charger is being planned at town hall
- 8) Upcoming meeting dates.
- a) Next meeting is tentatively planned for July 11 @ 7:00 PM
- 9) Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00