

Commission for Energy Use and Climate Change

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2017

Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA

Attendees:

Bueno, Ramon –Commissioner

Hodge, Joshua – Commissioner

Johnston, Eliza – Commissioner

Moore, Stephen – Commissioner

Sellers-Garcia, Oliver – (member ex-officio) Director of Office of Sustainability and Environment

Hannah Payne – Environmental Coordinator

Andrea Ranger

Elizabeth Baumel

Mary Mangan

Paola Massoli

Jocelyn Newhouse

Lauren de la Parra

Dan Flynn

Seth Berkman

Emily Chessin

Dana Clawson

Review and adopt the minutes from the May 10, 2017 meeting

- Approved

Climate Change Plan (Somerville Climate Forward)

- Congratulations to Eliza for naming!
- June 26th, kick off Community meeting at east Somerville Community School (6-8pm)
- Press release on plan and event is out
- Subscribers to the SustainaVille mailing list have been emailed
- The purpose of the meeting is to provide a general orientation on the project, answer questions focused on the initial thoughts people have on climate, and collect input on public's ideas.
- Agenda: Mayor intro.; Hannah MCing; project manager from consultant (Kleinfelder) on methodology; Oliver presenting baseline (GHG inventory and vulnerability assessment); overview of working groups and how future meetings will be structured; how to get involved; small group discussions on priorities.
- It will be important to define “resilience” and “carbon neutrality.”
- Hannah explained the Working Group structure. There will be three meetings:
 - First meeting: brainstorm general strategies
 - Second meeting: how does this apply to Somerville?

- Third meeting: final strategies
- The working groups' brainstormed strategies will then go to the consultants for analysis. The consultants are currently in the visioning and goals-setting phase. They will be evaluating in a number of ways including precedents (i.e. other cities' implementation of these ideas)
- Hannah reiterated her call-to-action for any working group participation interests to email her.
- Oliver added: really trying to push new ways to connect with the community (public engagement). And also added that the Vulnerability Assessment is now online! The state has been issuing grants via MVP (municipal vulnerability preparedness) on these types of studies and Somerville has been qualified to get some funding. Specifics to follow.
- Ramon asked about a "leave behind" one-sheeter that had multiple languages a part of the outreach.

Shadow/internal carbon pricing

- Mostly on the agenda to further the discussion on how we want to approach the discussion on the various levels (community, mayor/alderman). Ramon and Michelle will follow up later in the summer.
- Joshua explained that the real task is to find a way to better integrate a carbon impact decision-making (accounting) process into city programming/operations.
- SomerStat is interested in supporting this effort.
- Community member: Is there a document that analyzes how the city makes decisions? Oliver answered that there is no compilation of all process and procedures, but that the annual budget is the best document to see City organization, responsibilities, and resources.

Somerville Community Choice Electricity

- Notification letters have been sent. Feedback is coming in, and the feeling is enthusiastic over the 100% renewable energy. The City added a page on how to commit switch to 100% renewable. Thoughts of doing a bill calculator to compare the rates for better decision-making information. Key is: go to the website for better clarity about how to make the choices.
- Somerville's vendor selection was based on not just a low price, but also on customer service record and experience with community aggregation.
- The renewable component of Cambridge's aggregation program is quite different: Cambridge is buying SRECs equivalent to 25% of the solar portion of the state RPS. That is actually around 1% more renewable energy in total.

Energy storage

- Stephen provided an overview of potential urban design/solar/energy storage concept for the corridor under 93 between East Somerville and Assembly Square. There are several interested parties that have engaged in conversation, including MassDOT and FRIT.

Rescheduling July 2017 meeting

- The meeting will take place as scheduled.