

Commission for Energy Use and Climate Change

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2020

City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Avenue, Somerville, MA

Attendees:

Ramon Bueno – Commissioner

Liz Galloway – Commissioner

Eliza Johnston – Commissioner

Stephen Moore – Commissioner

Juliette Rooney-Varga – Commissioner

Julie Wood – Commissioner

Larry Yu – Commissioner

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

Mary Mangan

Sean Dew

Review and adopt the minutes from the January 8, 2020 meeting

- Approved

CEUCC governance

- Every year you must do the acknowledgement of the conflict of interest provision. Training is bi-annual—signing the certificate and getting it to the City Clerk’s office. Terms of appointments are 3 years. Eliza’s term has expired, and she will be reappointed. Larry Yu is officially understood to be an “associate”. Elizabeth Galloway still needs swearing in.
- Juliette: “what’s working what isn’t?” Such as in the case of not having a chair. Oliver has investigated other commissions do and how that may inform our process. A chair could have a more external role for the public interaction, running meetings, setting the agendas.
- Eliza: in previous iterations people like Andrea Ranger and Eric Becker had been a chair. They had served in a liaison capacity. Served as a point person for previous OSE directors.
- Eliza: We could assign other roles as well such as vice chair and secretary. The Green Communities stewardship was a large function for the commission prior to 2014.
- Larry: Per the ordinance, the CEUCC could to more than advise the Mayor
- Juliette: before the mayor committed to the Net Zero commitments, we had a greater advocacy role, which is less needed now.
- Ramon: when have we submitted reports to the mayor? (Eliza: we reviewed Green Communities reporting or ESCO reporting in the past.)
- Larry: it’s my sense we should take some load off Oliver’s plate. Setting agendas would still be in partnership with Oliver/OSE.

- Suggestion of co-chair is supported.
- Eliza: can we be more public facing? A chair can help make that happen.
- Mary Mangan: the public face would help the community to engage.
- Liz: addressing issues of equity will be vital
- CEUCC members went around and noted their interest in the roles. Selections made: Chair (Larry) and Vice Chair (Ramon). Larry will be main point of contact.
- Oliver: The commission should take a role to leadership for ideas for the OSE and the city. Focus on what your expertise is may be our best use for both the commission's mission and the city. The need and interest may arise for Commissioners to work on areas outside of their expertise, but it is important to remember that their individual expertise is reason they are appointed.
- Note taking assignment: Julie is next, followed by Ramon. Chair will facilitate meetings. Chair will not note-take.

Municipal energy with Energy Manager Bob Ross

- Bob Ross, Energy Manager for the City, introduced himself and the new position.
- Summary of presentation:
 - Implementing a Demand Response initiative starting with the schools (2/3 of municipal energy use is the schools by far the bulk).
 - Also looking at REC procurement.
 - Solar PPA program is also in the pipeline (East Somerville and the High School for PV in coordination with roof repair—lock in a 20 year PPA.
 - Green Communities programs and reporting duties. 2019 we got 191K. We have received 750K (club) altogether. We are now eligible for only 100K per year.
 - Data acquisition with our billing data is critical for the job. We can better use available data collection apps could be deployed two streamline the processing of this collection. Benchmarking our buildings is also on the docket. EUI performance rating.
 - Evolve to a preventative maintenance versus reactive maintenance program. Synthesize with Capital Projects. Because of the state of need to upgrade we may be able to leapfrog technologies being deployed.
- Ramon: where is the Demand Response now and what is the lift?
- Bob: Cap tag for peak energy use (summer basically) equates to varying rate. Can lead to more competitive electricity rates. Would love to upgrade the Building Management Systems (BMS) for the purposes of being agile to react quicker to peak day needs. Peak days are the “dirtiest” when the utilities are pumping any and all fuels sources into generation. That makes the PV integration all the more effective in evading that issue.
- Ramon: any energy storage capacity?
- Bob: no.

- Juliette: Insulation is very important (more effective than battery).
- Oliver: the commission could be helpful in City Council budgeting conversations for Energy Manager's projects.
- Juliette: schools are a great start in the multiple layers of data sharing and engagement opportunities. Harnessing those in how they translate to moving these into the community as well.
- Bob: Toronto Atmospheric Fund as a precedent to work into our work. [Www.tef.ca](http://www.tef.ca)

2020 CEUCC subcommittees

- 2020 CEUCC subcommittees: Larry synthesized the subcommittees list. Let's whittle the list down to a 2-3 for substantive participation.
- Juliette: perhaps Equity, Climate Insecurity, and Culture of Climate could be combined into a Social Focus category
- Eliza: Building Retrofit seems like an absolute.
- Oliver: Finance and Building Retrofit line up with City needs and efforts underway. Equity, Climate Insecurity, and Culture of Climate is also an important topic.
- Mary: Social Resiliency staffer for the Mystic River Watershed Authority may be of value to touch base with us.
- Larry: individuals can facilitate a workshop with the broader group.
- Finance: Larry, Eliza
- Building Retrofit: Liz, Ramon (Stephen)
- Equity, Climate Insecurity, and Culture of Climate: Juliette, Julie, Stephen, Mary (coalition of Neighborhood Groups)

Any and all business before the Commission

- None