

CPAC Meeting Notes
February 13, 2014
Taken by Peter Crawley

Attendance: Quinton Zondervan (chair), Milton Bevington (secretary), Betsy Boyle, Peter Crawley, Sarah Hill, Johanna Jobin, Ted Live, Lauren Miller, Tom Page, David Rabkin, Keren Schlomy, Suzanne Shepard, Scott Wood; *staff:* John Bolduc

Guests: Shawn Hesse, Eric Grunebaum, Steve Kaiser, Paula Phipps, Sue Butler, Mike Connolly, Catriona Cooke

Approval of the Minutes of January 9, 2013 meeting (Tabled, due to lack of quorum.)

Presentation: "Renewable Energy, Policies and Programs in Massachusetts"

Presenter: Mike Judge, Associate Manager, RPS Programs, Renewable and Alternative Energy Division, Mass DOER (substituted for speaker Dwayne Breger, Director)

(See presentation slides re: content of presentation.)

Q&A:

About 80% of solar incentive program projects were residential.

2011, non-carbon, non-nuclear energy generation is about 13%, probably little higher today.

SREC pricing risk causes brake on solar market. In 2012, oversupply of RECS and thus price reductions, though price rebounded in 2013.

Current SREC price is about \$250.

State offering \$30 million in credit enhancements to encourage commercial banks to finance solar installations, directed at small directly owned residential systems.

DOER has energy efficiency program for schools called "Safire" (sp?)

DOER dedicated \$40 million for climate resiliency projects, primarily for hardening/improving infrastructure so they can operate during energy black-outs (e.g., hospitals, schools, shelters, etc.)

How can the City of Cambridge help DOER advance policies/programs? 1. Help get word out on programs. 2. Use the programs. 3. Coordinate through Cambridge's Green Community Coordinator. 4. Explore programs of Mass Clean Energy Center. Americans consume 4-5x as much electricity/per capita than Europeans. US needs to reduce demand as well as convert sources of energy to renewables.

Director's Update Report

- NSTAR has indicated an interest in implementing a pilot program in Cambridge in collaboration with the City and MIT that would seek to overcome some of the barriers that have limited energy efficiency improvements in the multifamily sector. We will be meeting with NSTAR to discuss details of the pilot in a couple of weeks. More on this in March.
- The city is submitting a Letter of Interest in response to the Georgetown University Energy Prize, which is a multi-year competition for cities with populations between

5,000-250,000 to lower energy consumed by residential (defined as accounts charged the residential rate) and municipal accounts. The LOI is due end of February. To compete a conceptual proposal must be submitted end of April; we will use the next several months to decide if we can pull together a competitive grant proposal. We believe that the aforementioned NSTAR pilot is key to our ability to compete for the prize. We would expect to work with CPAC, local non-profits, the school district and potentially also the business sector (although project is strictly focused on residential/municipal) to develop the conceptual proposal. More on this in March.

- Held stakeholder meeting re Building Energy Disclosure. Received much helpful input (John can elaborate).
- Held well attended Vulnerability Assessment public meeting (John can elaborate).
- First meeting of Net Zero Task Force went well. Expect to form at least three working groups that CPAC members could participate in. Next meeting of the Net Zero Task Force will be March 5, 6-8pm. We are currently working to award a consultant contract to help with the Task Force's work (Quinton can elaborate on first meeting)
- Hubway winter pilot still going well – lot's of practice with snowy/icy conditions J
- CPAC recommendations:
 - Goals and Objectives: Council committees have now been appointed (Cheung chairs Health and Environment); expect to finalize Vision, Goals and Objectives document and accompanying memo from SR in the next several weeks.

CPAC Work Plan

Objective: Revisit the committee's work plan going forward and identify any gaps in terms of the issues or opportunities that should be considered for addition to the plan.

Question to John Bolduc: How can City get to 80% reduction in GHG's by 2050? No silver bullet; keep working incrementally and re-set goals and strategies as go along.

Need strategies to reduce consumption/demand for energy. Innovate on how average citizens participate in energy efficiency programs. Raise public awareness. Expand the sharing economy. (Registered cars in Cambridge down to 35,000 from 45,000 in past 15 years, or so.)

How to improve Public Education/Awareness? Citizens need to be educated. Educate local trade professionals to become energy ambassadors. Restructure and re-mission Cambridge Energy Alliance to be more effective and innovative regarding changing citizen's behaviors.

Milton B. proposes that CPAC should focus on one topic/year versus the myriad topics currently addressed. David R. suggests CPAC provide feedback for CDD staff. Quinton Z. suggests CPAC has been effective by advocating for certain issues and getting the City to explore (via Task Forces, etc.) and implement. (Cite: Vulnerability Assessment) John B. CPAC is an advisory committee to City and should not focus on

single issues nor be expected to implement solutions/initiatives. Tom P. suggests CPAC form more subcommittees that focus on singular issues.

John B. Energy efficiency in buildings is key problem, also a social problem. How to address multi-family buildings, for example?

Peter C. suggests CPAC would benefit from clearer information about City's environmental performance to see the hot spots, which would better inform issues CPAC should focus on. Quinton mentions that data requests of City can be made.

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