

Climate Change Council

Meeting Minutes: May 13, 2021

Committee Members:

Bob Cataldo
Renee D'Argento
Susan Edwards
Ken Hartlage
Jessica Veysey Powell
Jim Scarsdale
Chuck Walkovich

Guest Speakers:

Patrick Roche, Good Energy

Meeting:

Meeting started at 7:05 PM

Review and approval of Minutes:

Minutes from April 8, 2021 approved (Motion: Jessica Veysey Powell; seconded: Jim Scarsdale; (7-0)).

Tonight's Agenda:

Presentation from Patrick Roche, Good Energy

Question and Discussions During and After the Presentation

- Affordability of Clean energy/Renewal Energy
- Production Options- Default v Options with a higher mix of Clean/Renewal Energy
- The benefit of purchasing Clean/ Renewal Energy from local suppliers
- Energy credits and how they may impact the program, Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)
- Discussion of the strategy of opt in v opt out, better to educate than to demand or force participation/enrollment
- Where does clean energy come from, in particular not sourcing from companies that just clear-cut land to install solar operations
- Outreach and collaboration on Branding Opportunities
- Accommodation for low-income individuals that are currently receiving discounts
- What are next steps, process for presentation to the Selectboard and Town Warrant Article

- Suggestion that a presentation be made at Fall Town Meeting

The presentation ended at 8:25 PM

Workgroup Updates

Ken recommended that we skip the workgroup updates and discuss at our 6 month meeting, all were in agreement

Comments on Presentation

- Chuck – Is in agreement and is on board with proceeding, however he is not on Board with forcing/demanding that people participate (opt out). He is in favor of Educating v. Legislating
- Bob – getting information to the Selectboard and working on parallel paths, information to the Selectboard and researching alternatives
- Ken – indicated that we should be doing the upfront work before presenting to the Selectboard
- Renee – provided that there are three aggregators in Massachusetts and Good Energy comes highly recommended
- Sue – this was a great first presentation

Other Items

- Sue – announced the Webinar being held on May 19, with a presentation from Connor Steadman (sp)
- Bob – Interested in helping with other workgroups
- Tony -indicated that he has built and sold a clothes line in pursuit of his mission to eliminate electric dryers
- Meeting adjourned – 8:40 PM (Motion: Jim; Renee seconded; 7-0)
- Next meeting will be on June 2, 2021 at 7:00 PM