



Meeting Minutes – Final
January 22, 2020 – 6:30pm
City Hall Annex – 98 Washington Street

In Attendance: John Hayes, Jeff Cohen, Phil Koch, Rick Nye, Doug Bowker, Meg Riccardi (Council Liaison), Esmeralda Bisono (staff), Jenna Ide (staff)

Not in Attendance: Gail Kubik, Chris Cantone

Public: Judith Reilly, Jackie DeHaan (SSU Student & Sunrise Hub Member), Steve Dibble (Ward 7 City Councillor)

1. Introductions

2. Public Comment

- Jeff Cohen - MIT is working on a simulator called “EnRoads” that shows people how to best deal with the climate crisis. It is fairly new and was just released three months ago. The simulator shows how everything in our society affects climate (carbon, gas, population, etc.) and vice-versa.
 - There are members of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) who are taking the seminar to learn how to use the simulator and teach others. The seminar is one hour per week for seven weeks.
 - It is a great visual to get people to see how their behaviors are affecting the climate and what we should do to reduce the impact as much as possible.
 - We should have some CCL members come to SERC, and eventually the City Council, to give a demonstration on EnRoads. Jeff will reach out to someone completing the seminar to come and do the demo.
 - Here is the link: <https://www.climateinteractive.org/tools/en-roads/>
- John Hayes - Resilient MA website is a great tool that lets you see greenhouse gas emissions data, community acts, causes and effects of climate change, and more. It gives details on climate change legislation in Massachusetts, such as the Climate Change Solution Act. John recommends everyone to view it.
 - Here is the link: <https://www.resilientma.org/>



3. Review & Approve Meeting Minutes

- Phil Koch motioned to approve the minutes. Rick Nye seconded.
 - Vote passed unanimously.

4. Finalize Resiliency FAQ's

- John Hayes will be done editing in February and will work on it with Esmeralda.
- Rick Nye motioned to publish the FAQ's on the website with John's edits. Doug Bowker seconded.
 - Vote passed unanimously.

5. Discussion of Potential Ordinances

- Jeff Cohen - John and Jeff will have a meeting about potential ordinances at Front St. coffee and committee members are free to join.
 - The goal is to have these passed unanimously in the committee before bringing it to the Council.
- Jeff Cohen - Ideas for potential ordinances:
 - Proposal for SERC to be part of the sustainability in Salem process - and we can have a budget!
 - Jenna Ide - When we began as the "Renewable Energy Task Force," we were formed under a state law that allowed us to be part of that process and have a budget. If we get in compliance with the original MA legislature mandate then we can get back to that.
 - Resiliency Zoning ordinance - will reach out to Gail Kubik who is an architect.
 - Jenna Ide - This entails review of our current ordinances and updating them based on climate resilience.
 - Boston is considering a net zero carbon ordinance. We should follow this because we always talk about how we don't have minimum standards on carbon.
 - Other groups and government officials are talking about a gas ordinance.
 - Ordinance concerned about wetlands - Federal changes will affect wetlands and chemicals polluting them.
 - It's important to research some that will be useful for our community.
- Jenna Ide - Solar ordinances: Getting an ordinance that requires developments to put solar on new buildings/condos because getting it after the fact is extremely difficult. It really wouldn't affect the cost too much into development.



- John Hayes - It's our advisory role for the Mayor and City Council. If we propose something a bit too aggressive, it will at least get the Mayor and Council to think about them. Boston and Cambridge are definitely leaders in this sector. Good community involvement, committee's revolving around these issues, etc.
 - Jenna Ide - SERC and the city have done many projects and resolutions. There are still huge amounts of capital projects and Green Community grants. But we can't keep relying on grants to fund projects, it needs to be part of the normal process. We now have a \$100,000 cap on the Green Communities grant.
- Jeff Cohen - We can not get to 100% clean energy without taking dramatic steps. Focus on making resilient and sustainable buildings instead of wanting to build them the fastest and cheapest. They will definitely last longer.
- People with particular interest in these topics can meet with us to help us research and begin the process.

6. Solarize Mass Plus Updates

- Recap of 12/9 event – pros/cons for next events
 - John Hayes - Lighting issue at the Community Life Center. Is it possible to dim the lights over the powerpoints? There are ways to get lighting in a room where you can turn the lights off for the presentation, but lighting for everyone else.
 - Esmeralda Biso - I will definitely discuss this with them if we have another event there.
 - Doug Bowker - There were a lot of people there and several of my neighbors scheduled a consultation.
 - Jeff Cohen - Suggestion: Great for the next event to have testimonials from past/current participants. Or people that already have these appliances. There are people in the community who would be happy to present on this.
 - Jenna Ide - Also giving people handouts that they can pass out to their neighbors and friends. Passing that enthusiasm out.
 - Jeff Cohen - Focus more on explaining the technologies. Many people would benefit from air-source heat pumps and solar hot water but have no idea what they are.
 - Doug Bowker - Focus more on technical information. Aspects of the presentation had just basic descriptions. Could go a little bit further on how these technologies work, getting from A to B., etc.
- Esmeralda Biso - Update on Solarize metrics:
 - Solar Hot Water - 11 contracts signed - 8 in Salem
 - Air-source Heat Pump - 7 contracts signed - 5 in Salem
 - Solar PV - 12 contracts signed - 8 in Salem
- Phil Koch - How does this program benefit the city environmentally and financially?
 - Jenna Ide - At the end of the program there will be overall metrics that show how much efficient energy we've provided to the City of Salem, which helps us with our requirements of being a Green Community.



- Jeff Cohen - Electrifying everything. Solarize does this on a small scale. When you have solar and similar technologies, you are taking more ownership of your power and not relying on the big gas/electric companies.
- Doug Bowker - You become energy independent when you go solar. Which overall makes the whole community more resilient.
- Jenna Ide - Ideas for promotion? Please send them to Esmeralda!
 - John Hayes - Recommends getting testimonials from people who can come to the events, but also recordings from Salem, Swampscott, or Nahant residents who participated this round.
- Contact Esmeralda, the Salem Solar Coach, with any questions on the Solarize program at ebisono@salem.com.

7. Upcoming Events

- SAFE's Re-Imagining Salem – Part 2: Turning Our Ideas into Action
 - Monday, January 27, 2020 (Snow date: Thursday, January 30, 2020)
 - 6:30pm-8:30pm at Salem's Community Life Center
- Sea Level Rise presentation
 - Monday, February 3, 2020 - 7:30 P.M. - Marblehead High School Theatre
 - A research group will present the projected sea level rise data for Marblehead Harbor for the years 2030, 2050, and 2070.
 - i. Doug Bowker - We need to do the same thing here in Salem.
 - 1. John Hayes - We have had something similar done at Salem State, but we do need something like this for the city.

8. New Business

- Jenna Ide - The City of Beverly received a grant to do a climate action plan. We will meet with them to discuss their plan. The grant would take the action planning to a level that we should follow; they incorporate metrics and tracking. It will help us decipher how soon we can get to our 100% clean energy plan. This current phase is just to discuss ideas, possibilities, what the partnership looks like, etc.
 - John Hayes - It is beneficial to collaborate because we do share a water supply.
 - Doug Bowker - Long-term, regional planning seems like a good idea. Salem, Swampscott, Marblehead, Danvers, Beverly all share waterways so we should all be discussing this at some point.
 - Phil Koch - Do other cities have committees similar to ours? Climate change will eventually turn to larger regional/State problems to deal with together.
 - Jeff Cohen - Some of these communities don't have any committees like this at all. If we have a regional plan, it's best to start with another adjourning committee.
 - Jenna Ide - We are working towards the proposal but the funding is not a done deal. We are still looking for a consultant on this. I will update everyone as it goes along.



- Jeff Cohen - There are currently three environmental justice bills in front of the MA legislature. One is focused on obtaining direct money from the superfund to vulnerable & low-income neighborhoods/communities. It also serves as an awareness of the fact that sometimes there's not enough money to spend to make sure vulnerable communities are safe during the climate crisis. So, what are we going to do when these disasters hit?

9. Next Meeting - February 26, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

- All 2020 SERC meetings will be located in the first floor medium meeting room of the City Hall Annex.

10. Adjournment

- Rick Nye motioned to adjourn meeting. Phil Koch seconded.
 - Vote passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Esmeralda Bisono.

