



## **Meeting Minutes**

February 26, 2020 – 6:30pm  
City Hall Annex – 98 Washington Street

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

**Not in Attendance:** Rick Nye, Gail Kubik

**Public:** Kendra Bowker (Citizens Climate Lobby), Katie Farrell (Citizens Climate Lobby), Mark Wilhelm (new Salem Resident), Stan Franzen (SAFE & Citizens Climate Lobby), Patrick Schultz (Salem Pantry, Salem Food for all), Dean Berg (Beverly's Clean Energy Advisory Committee), Stasia (League of Women Voters), Nathan Young (City's Sustainability Intern)

### **1. Introductions**

### **2. Public Comment**

### **3. Potential Sustainability Coordinator position at Salem Schools - Pat Schultz**

- Patrick Schultz and Kelly Cronan (a science teacher at Witchcraft Heights) are advocating for a new position at the Salem public Schools - a Sustainability and School Garden Coordinator.
- They are asking for groups and organizations to sign on as supporters for this new position. Patrick is here to ask for SERC's support.
- The position focuses on waste reduction, implementing a school garden curriculum, sustainability practices, and more. It is a full-time, year-round position.
- The person in this position will:
  - Manage the Salem Public School gardens in every school that produces food
  - Run the garden(s) from late Spring to early Fall
  - Conduct feasibility studies on a composting program
  - Conduct energy audits with students
  - and more!
- Philip Koch motions to consider SERC to sign on the proposal. Doug Bowker seconded.
  - Vote passed unanimously.



- Comments from the Committee:
  - John Hayes - The position will have more success if the coordinator has grant-writing abilities. The position will need funding for several things so grant-writing will be a skill needed.
  - Jenna Ide - “Sustainability” covers many aspects, but this position seems to have a focus on food. Think about changing the title of the position to show that it focuses on food.
  - Jenna Ide - Change “conducts energy audit” to “works with officials to conduct energy audit” because they’ll be working with energy audit professionals on this.
  - Jeff Cohen - Add that the person in position will be meeting regularly with the City’s Waste Reduction Coordinator, Micaela, and Sustainability Coordinator, Esmeralda.. and others involved.
  - Jeff Cohen - Only about 800-1,000 households in Salem compost. Including school children in these tasks will help them show their parents the importance of reducing waste, food waste, etc.
  - Doug Bowker - This position may take years to become definite, so integrating it with as many departments/areas as possible will help get its feet off the ground, especially with a school STEM program, for example.
- Committee voted on adding SERC’s name on the proposal.
  - Vote passed unanimously.

#### **4. En-Roads Presentation by Betsy Hopkins & Katie Farrell of CCL NS (Citizens Climate Lobby, North Shore Chapter)**

- CCL members will come back next month to present En-ROADS because the presentation system was not working.

#### **5. Review & Approve Meeting Minutes**

- Jeff Cohen motioned to approve the minutes with edits. Doug Bowker seconded.
  - Vote passed unanimously.

#### **6. Discussion on Ordinances**

- Jeff Cohen - We have yet to meet to do a brainstorming session on ordinances. We will schedule a meeting sometime in March and will have sample ordinances to present at the SERC meeting next month.
- Doug Bowker - It may be beneficial to separate ordinances that are just starting (1 year or less) and ones that are at least 3-5 years in. There are always unintended issues or ones that really work, and we can learn from these.

#### **7. Project Updates**

- **Sustainability Intern Nathan Young**
  - Jenna Ide - Esmeralda and I are working to bring Nathan Young on as an intern to help with Green Fair planning, ordinance research & writing, and any other projects that may need assistance.



- Nathan Young is a junior at The George Washington University in D.C. studying Political Science and Sustainability. He and his family live in the North Shore and are involved in sustainability activities in the city of Salem which is how he got connected with Jenna Ide. He was supposed to study abroad in China for this semester but... things happened.
- **City of Salem Energy Evaluation (Green Communities)**
  - Jenna Ide - Last year, the City of Salem had an energy evaluation done through the Green Communities (“GC”) program. We’ve been a designated Green Community since 2010 and have been keeping tabs of our energy use since then. Looking at overall data from then to now, we’re actually up 6% from our baseline, but we’re supposed to go down 20%.
    - For example, the City of Salem public schools have longer school years, have more summer programs, are opened for longer (nighttime, teacher training, technology, etc.). This could be why the energy use is increasing. But our carbon has gone down significantly.
    - It’s time we do some strategic looking at our assets, such as how we are using them.
  - Jeff Cohen - When was this data compiled through?
    - Jenna Ide - Fiscal year 2018. Since then we’ve improved efficiency in several city buildings; recent solar PV systems will help, but the high school needs a major upgrade.
  - Jenna Ide - Our schools, for the most part, were upgraded 15-20 years ago where others are way worse, so that’s the focus right now with most grants in this area. Schools need to think about how we’re using the space strategically. We don’t need to turn on everything in the whole building if they’re just using one room; think of building more strategically. Using our building to the maximum efficiency possible.
  - Doug Bowker - Is there any comparison of energy use to other municipalities?
    - Jenna Ide - Our joint climate action plan w/ Beverly will hit some of these points. Interesting to look at this in a larger lens and in this way.
- **Solarize Mass Plus**
  - Esmeralda Bisono - Things were slow in January and early February but they are starting to pick up again. We are expecting a spike in leads after the March, April, and May water bills are sent out city-wide with our new brochure.
  - **Meet & Greet with the Solarize Mass Plus Team**
    - Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 at 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
    - Village Tavern, 168 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970 (located in Witch City Mall).
- **Green Fair**
  - A way to promote and educate a green lifestyle to residents of Salem and surrounding neighborhoods
  - Saturday, April 18, 2020 at 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM



- Community Life Center, 401 Bridge Street, Salem, MA 01970

## **8. Upcoming Events**

- Meet & Greet with the Solarize Mass Plus Team
  - Wednesday, March 11th, 2020 at 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
  - Village Tavern, 168 Essex Street, Salem, MA 01970 (located in Witch City Mall)

## **9. Next Meeting – March 25, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.**

## **10. Adjournment**

- Doug Bowker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chris Cantone seconded.
  - Vote passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Esmeralda Bisono.

