



Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2020 – 6:30pm

Remote Participation

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

Not in Attendance: Gail Kubik

Public: Pat Gozemba (Salem Alliance for the Environment “SAFE” Co-Chair), Nathan Young (City’s Sustainability Intern), Councilor Steve Dibble, Tyler SATV, Stan Franzeen, Bonnie Bain, Michael Cusick

Introductions

Public Comments

- Councilor Steve Dibble
 - Thank you, SERC, for everything you do for the environment!
 - Councilor Dibble invites all SERC members to the City Council Committee on Public Health, Safety, and the Environment (PHSE) meeting happening on June 9, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss potential single-use plastics ban and gas ban.

Review & Approve Meeting Minutes

- Jeff Cohen motioned to approve the minutes with edits. Rick Nye seconded.
 - Vote passes unanimously.

Discussion of Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) with Footprint



- Link to the document:
https://www.salem.com/sites/salemma/files/uploads/community_benefits_agreement_inal.pdf
- Jenna Ide – Please refer to Part II Section D: *Environmental Initiatives*
 - Footprint is providing the City with annual and revolving funds that will support several environmental initiatives. Is SERC interested in getting involved in this process?
- Jeff Cohen – Asserting SERC as part of the process to see where this money is going, whether it's to review or make suggestions, is a great idea. John Hayes will write a letter to the Mayor on behalf of SERC and have members sign it.
- Chris Cantone – What are the exact requests we are asking on this letter?
 - Jenna Ide – The letter could just be a request a sit down and talk through this with the mayor to see how SERC can be involved in the revolving loan fund, environmental initiatives, and the buckets of money involved.
- Pat Gozemba – Thank you for bringing this up because SAFE has been spending a lot of time on this CBA with Footprint. One part requested from SAFE was a promise that Footprint would set some funds aside for offshore wind. SAFE is working hard on the concept of offshore wind through a MA, NH & ME partnership to see how feasible it is.
- Jenna Ide – There are many options available through this Community Benefits Agreement with Footprint. They will help support the Beverly-Salem Climate Action Plan. Other options are to provide grants for low income housing to provide solar, green businesses, etc.
- Jeff Cohen – Recommendation that he and John Hayes have a conversation and work with the committee on a letter to the mayor. SERC can discuss more at the next meeting.

Ordinance Updates

- Jeff Cohen, John Hayes, Councilor Riccardi, and Nathan Young, the City's Sustainability intern, began meeting months ago to develop a Green Building Ordinance.
- Jeff Cohen – There is a draft on Google Doc's that will be sent to the rest of the committee so that members can view, edit, and make suggestions before SERC submits it to the City Council. The team who drafted the ordinance has a goal of getting an ordinance that will make Salem more sustainable & efficient and is able to pass through the City Council. Through the research that Nathan Young has done, we used examples from ordinances all over the country that have passed in municipalities similar to Salem.
- Councilor Dibble – The process of presenting an ordinance to City Council: The matter will go to the council; be remanded to the sub-committee PHSE; there will be a date set



to hold at least two public meetings to introduce/speak about the ordinance, receive public comment, and have some changes made; the City Solicitor will review & make comments; another public meeting will be held; then at some point it will be remanded back to the City Council and hopefully a unanimous vote will take place.

- Jeff Cohen makes a motion that members of SERC review the ordinance and get feedback back to Jeff and Nathan by a week from this Friday. Phillip Koch seconds.
 - Amendment to motion: That Committee, Jenna Ide, SAFE (Pat Gozemba, Cindy Keegan, & Stan Franzen), and Councilor Riccardi review the ordinance and get feedback back by a week from this Friday.
 - Vote passes unanimously.

Discussion of Rocky Mountain Institute's 2020 Building Electrification Accelerator Program – Pat Gozemba (SAFE)

- Link to more details on the program: [RMI 2020 Building Electrification Accelerator Program](#)
- Pat Gozemba - Move that SERC join with SAFE in requesting that Mayor Kim Driscoll on behalf of the City of Salem accept the invitation offered to SAFE and the city (through Councilor Steve Dibble) to participate in the no-cost eight month **Rocky Mountain Institute 2020 Building Electrification Accelerator** from late June 2020 through January 2021 to explore the creation of a Building Electrification ordinance. We further request that Mayor Driscoll designate a member of the city staff to be the point person for the city with RMI and a participant in the accelerator. This designee would also serve on a Salem task force (to be organized by SAFE and SERC) in developing and attempting to pass a Building Electrification ordinance to be presented to the City Council by the end of 2021.
 - John Hayes, Doug Bowker, and Esmeralda Bisono volunteered to be representatives of the City & participants in this program.
- Doug Bowker – if this is a resource to learning and additional tools, that cannot be a bad thing. The best way to move forward is to look for the broadest ways of incentivizing green construction/renovation. Reducing gas might be the best way in terms of buildings. There are a lot of aspects in building that have nothing to do with the way its powered/heated. It'll be less controversial if we incentivize the way we look at buildings holistically instead of coming into it with a “gas ban” verbiage/tone. Building electrification and energy savings is a much more beneficial way of approaching it. Great job!
- Jeff Cohen – Amended Motion: Move that SERC join with SAFE in requesting that Mayor Kim Driscoll on behalf of the City of Salem accept the invitation offered to SAFE and the



city (through Councilor Steve Dibble) to participate in the no-cost eight month **Rocky Mountain Institute 2020 Building Electrification Accelerator** from late June 2020 through January 2021 to explore the creation of a Building Electrification ordinance. We further request that Mayor Driscoll designate a representative of the City, either a staff person or a SERC member or both, to be the point person for the city with RMI and a participant in the accelerator. This designee would also serve on a Salem task force (to be organized by SAFE and SERC) in developing and attempting to pass a Building Electrification ordinance to be presented to the City Council by the end of 2021; this being no commitment to submit an ordinance to Council.

- Doug Bowker seconded.
- Vote passes unanimously.

Project Updates

Solarize Mass Plus – Program ends on May 31, 2020 – Esmeralda Bisono (Salem Solar Coach)

- Webinars for each technology are up on the website www.solarizenorthshore.org
- Metrics thus far
 - Solar P.V. – 17 contracts signed in Salem; 26 contracts signed in total between all three communities.
 - Air Source Heat Pumps – 11 contracts signed in Salem; 15 contracts signed in total between all three communities.
 - Solar Hot Water – 9 contracts signed in Salem; 14 contracts signed in total between all three communities.
- Gift card giveaway - \$50 for a site visit, \$100 for a contract sign up

Beverly & Salem Climate Action Plan

- Jenna Ide – The Consultant Selection Committee, composed of Jenna Ide, Brittany Dolan, Seth Lattrell, and representatives from Beverly, is in its final stages of selection; the awardee should be announced in the next week or so. SERC has advocated for zero emissions but how and when is what this plan is for. SERC will have a voice in creating this plan. Looking for creative ideas on outreach during this time.



- The selection committee received six proposals. It came down to two based on quality and price and the committee made its recommendation to both mayors. They must now decide.

New Business

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting – June 24, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Adjournment

- Jeff Cohen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Chris Cantone seconded.
 - Vote passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Esmeralda Bisono.

