

**Sustainability Energy and Resiliency Committee (SERC)  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
April 27, 2022, 6:30 P.M.  
Remote Participation**

**Attendance (NO QUORUM)**

Chair John Hayes  
Vice Chair Gail Kubik  
Phil Koch

**City Staff:**

Jenna Ide, Director, Sustainability and Resiliency Department & Capital Projects (first 10 minutes)  
Vanessa Pineda, Energy Manager  
Stacy Kilb, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator (recorder)  
Chris Malstrom, Lead Outreach Coordinator  
Sal Faustino, Outreach Ambassador  
Jeff Cohen, City Council Liaison (first 20 minutes)

**Not Present**

Esmeralda Bisono, Manager, Sustainability and Resiliency Department  
Chris Cantone  
Rick Nye  
Elvis Alvarez  
Doug Bowker (Arrived late)

**Public:**

SATV (recording)  
John DiModica  
Erin Casey  
Kate Kennedy  
Andy Varela

**Introduction**

**Public Comment**

None

**Review & Approve Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2022**

*Lacking a quorum, this item is moved to the May meeting.*



## **City Council Liaison Report (Jeff Cohen)**

### **General City Council Updates**

- Bertini project before Planning Board; will be brought before SERC. Only 3 acres out of 14 will be built b/c of Rosie's Pond
- Promising it as a sustainable project
- Council passed Municipal Green Building Ordinance in January. Will serve as template for other communities
  - For the first time, SERC is part of the project review process
- Updated Wetlands Ordinance to include climate change as a criteria, and increasing setbacks
- Considering Polystyrene ban ordinance and solar ordinance
- Also considering Green Infrastructure (EV stations, bicycle infrastructure)
- Bureaucracy/legislation process is slow but Council is friendly to the environment

### **Update on DOER Building Energy Code Straw Proposal**

- Letter signed by many community officials, councilors, Mayor, climate groups, etc. Public outcry has influenced DOER to review criteria in proposal
- Feb. 2021- state passed robust Climate Roadmap bill; Straw Code does not meet those goals. We have not met our emissions goals in 2020
- Does not allow communities to decide to deny gas hookups
- Washington State passed a law banning gas in new buildings, also first state to pass carbon pricing
- Salem is a Green Community so is required to adopt this code, but we are working on our own Green Building Ordinance to have appropriate standards
- There is language about net zero but no specific criteria

### **Guest Speaker: John Bolduc, Environmental Planner, City of Cambridge**

This item is moved up due to time constraints of John Bolduc.

Seth Federspiel is not available so John Bolduc will be doing a slightly modified presentation.

John Hayes introduces John Bolduc and outlines some of the City of Cambridge's sustainability efforts

### **Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO)**

- Building Energy Benchmarking – larger buildings required to report energy usage to the City
- Energy Benchmarking Laws
- Local Govt's enacting benchmarking laws
- Cambridge Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) thresholds/elements
- Next stage: establish performance requirements via Ordinance amendment (in deliberation by Council). Shifting focus from energy and water usage to emissions



- Proposed to require net zero up to 2035 from 2050 but there are some challenges
- Gail Kubik notes that current goals should be 2030-2035 as was set 20+ years ago
- Lenient enforcement so far but once performance standards are in place, will be stricter

### **Resilient Cambridge Plan**

- <https://sustainabilitydashboard.cambridgema.gov/net-zero-action-plan> Developed w/interdepartmental and consultant team
- Resilient Cambridge Timeline
- Climate Change: Shifting Risks
- Increasing Heat, Precipitation, Storm surge flooding risk
- Climate Stress Test: What happens if no action taken?
- Products: Resilient Cambridge & additional materials (summary report, story maps, FloodViewer – potential flooding by parcel)
- Recommendations
- Approach to Climate Change Preparedness and Resilience: Reduce risk + prepare for unavoidable risks
- What we recommend: categories
  - Closer neighborhoods
  - Better buildings
  - Stronger infrastructure
  - Greener city
- Before/After Rendering
- Visions For a Transformed City
- Storm Surge issue
- Related Processes
- Current Initiatives
- Regional Climate Collaborations
- [www.cambridgema.gov/ResilientCambridge](http://www.cambridgema.gov/ResilientCambridge)
- John Hayes notes it is a good way to educate the public about the urgent need
- People must get that the future climate will be different and Cities we have are built for a past climate
- How are success rates for adoption among rental populations with regards to things that make the social fabric stronger? There is a lot of work to do. Social connectedness – social capital in emergency response is more actionable.

### **Doug Bowker has joined the meeting as of 7:40PM**

- John Bolduc will share additional resources
- Vanessa asks about the population of Cambridge and how temporary residents are approached and engaged.
  - This is difficult

### **Net Zero Action Plan**



- Not discussed

### **City Updates**

#### **Update: Zoning Ordinance Changes Relative to Salem Sustainability (Jenna Ide/Jeff Cohen)**

- Postponed to next meeting

#### **Update: “Resilient Together: The Point” (Chris Malstrom)**

- Partnership: Keep Salem Beautiful cleanup of Point neighborhood this past weekend
- Community Forum May 16<sup>th</sup> on zoom and also in-person tabling event Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **New Business**

#### **Summary of Salem State Earth Week Events (Stacy Kilb or John Hayes)**

- Stacy: presentation to Climate Change class
- Chris: Tabling at office supply swap event
- Some events were recorded; John Hayes will provide a list with links to recordings

John Hayes leaves the meeting at 7:58PM

#### **SERC Sub-Committees:**

**Executive Committee** – planning future meetings

**Project Review Committee**

**Environmentally Preferable Products Purchasing Policy (EP3) Review Committee**

- All are preliminary and aside from the Executive Committee, consisting of Gail, John and City staff, no members have volunteered/been assigned yet
- Stacy notes that Committee membership is not limited to voting Board members; those who were interested in Board membership but not selected were invited to look into being on the Project Review or EP3 Committee. Erin Casey is on the meeting tonight

#### **Discuss SERC short-, medium-, and long-term objectives**

- Postponed to May meeting

### **Upcoming City Committee Meetings**

**Recycling Committee:** First Tuesday of the month, 5/3/22, 6:30-7:30PM

**Tree Commission:** Third Monday of the month, 5/16/22, 6:00PM

**Conservation Commission:** Third Tuesday of the month, 5/17/22, 6:30PM

**Next SERC Meeting** - Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 6:30PM on zoom

### **Adjournment**

*John Hayes left the meeting at 7:58 PM so there is no longer a quorum to vote to adjourn.*

*The meeting ends at 8:05PM*

