



Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2020 – 6:30pm

Remote Participation

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

Not in Attendance: Doug Bowker, Gail Kubik, Chris Cantone, Phil Koch

Public: Alan Hanscom (SATV), Dayton Marchese (Environmental Engineer-Salem Resident)

Introductions

Public Comment

- Alan Hanscom – I also record the historical commission meetings and they have been reviewing more and more cases of adding solar panels on to historical buildings, homes, and sites. There have been a lot of conversations and back-and-forth on this so it would be great for SERC members to attend these meetings to advocate for it.

Review & Approve Meeting Minutes

- The Committee did not reach quorum, thus cannot vote on any matters. This agenda item is tabled until the next meeting.



Ordinance Updates (Jeff Cohen)

- Meg Riccardi and Jeff Cohen had a phone call with SAFE regarding the ordinance and they provided many helpful comments.
- Jeff Cohen reached out to a following individuals to get their feedback on the ordinance: Dr. Luna (SSU professor), Dr. Healey (SSU professor), Mickey Northcutt (CEO of the North Shore Community Development Coalition), Bill Luster (local developer), Joey Wolongevicz (SSU Sunrise Movement Hub Coordinator), and Cynthia Nina-Soto (president of the North Shore Association of Realtors and a small developer).
 - Concerns with mandating Mass Save Energy Assessments – it may delay the sale of the home (sometimes it could be weeks before Mass Save is able to schedule them) and any mandates on homeowners can be controversial.
 - Jeff Cohen – Even if it is not in the ordinance, it would be great for SERC to promote the Home Energy Assessments to Salem residents. Many may not know that it is no charge or the benefits to getting the assessment.
 - Meg Riccardi – Another option is to review the homeowner's energy bills from the last two years to see their energy usage.
 - Great idea that instead of doing a square footage criterion, it would be number of units.
- Meg Riccardi will update us on when we will be in front of PHS&E in September. LEED AP person, and youth in the City (SSU and SHS) to testify on the ordinance's behalf.
- Nathan Young, the city's sustainability intern, has done an incredible amount of work doing comparisons of ordinances which will be distributed to the committee.
- Jenna Ide – Mayor asked that we start mapping out the process. We have talked to the Director of Planning Tom Daniel. We would like to chunk out different areas, such as City-owned buildings, new buildings, existing construction, and new construction. We do not want confusion or to be against rules that the City already has.
 - City staff, including Jenna Ide, Tom Daniel, Brittany Dolan (Conservation Planner), Esmeralda Bisono, and Beth Rennard (City Solicitor) will be meeting biweekly to go over the ordinance and make sure it follows existing City rules.



- Will also review definitions.
- Coordination with Engineering Department on sewer/stormwater system connections – the City of Salem is figuring out how to update this method of sewer/stormwater system reviews and we will coordinate with the department to make sure the new rules are in line with the ordinance.
- Jeff Cohen – When I get ordinance reviews, should I send them along to you?
 - Jenna Ide – Yes. If verbal, write a summary, if printed, just send along.
- Jeff Cohen - There was an article released this week on Hampton Inn’s plan to have a green roof on top of their parking garage. They have chosen to do this without a rule or incentive in place.
 - The Green Building Ordinance has a section where it states that any new construction or retrofit buildings can choose between solar panels or a green roof. This can benefit the ordinance and Salem in general.
 - Jenna Ide – Salem State University has a green roof, but not many others in the City. Since the City is re-doing its stormwater management policies so this could tie in very well since green roofs assist with this. It’s also a better view if the roof is shorter and there’s a taller building looking down at it.
 - Jeff Cohen – The Hampton Inn chose to do this \$200,000 green roof project because there had to be a way to save money and energy in the building. We know that it helps cool down the building, manage stormwater, and lower energy costs.
 - The committee will look into getting a tour at the future Hampton Inn or current Salem State green roofs.

Project Updates

- ***Resilient Together* - Beverly/Salem Climate Action & Resilience Plan (Jenna Ide & Esmeralda Bisono)**
 - Esmeralda Bisono – Branding process has begun and so far, we have finalized the logo (see below). KLA (Kim Lundgren & Associates, the chosen consultants to



help develop the Plan) is working on creating outreach materials now that we have our branding done.

- KLA is hiring people to help us with outreach. I am going to do a post on my Facebook page tomorrow with more details, and I can post it on the SERC page as well. We are making sure they are hiring diverse youth to help with this.
- Baseline for Greenhouse Gas Inventory is being developed and will be done around December.



- **Rocky Mountain Institute's (RMI) Building Electrification Accelerator Program (Doug Bowker & Esmeralda Bisono)**
 - Esmeralda Bisono – We sent Claire McKenna from RMI the Green Building Ordinance draft for her review. We have received it and will go over it.
 - We have our 3rd workshop tomorrow which will guide us on legal pathways towards

New Business

- **Discussion of a Proposed Redesign of the City of Salem's "Water & Sewer Bill" (John Hayes)**
 - John Hayes presented a PowerPoint to the committee and viewers on the current water and sewer bills sent out quarterly to Salem homeowners.
 - John Hayes proposes that the City re-designs the bills so that they are more user-friendly – use units that the average person can understand and visualize.



Currently, the bill tells the homeowner how many cubic feet of water was used per a 3-month period but then it is up to them to calculate how many gallons that is if they are interested in knowing.

- John went through the calculation and it is not simple!
- Re-design the water bill to add a column next to the cubic feet that has how many gallons of water per day is being used.
- On the back of the bill, there is extra space, so John proposes adding average water usage in gallons for 2, 3, and 4-person households so that the homeowner can compare it to their own and adjust it accordingly. This is how we can promote sustainability as a City and lower our water usage waste.
- **Please see the presentation [here](#).**
- Jeff Cohen – Great presentation! This is something we should propose to the City. If people see how many thousands of gallons of water are being wasted and how much more efficient we could be, it could make a real difference.
- Jenna Ide will forward this presentation to City staff in the engineering department to see how we can move forward with this proposal.
- **NESEA Conference Overview (Esmeralda Bisoño & Jenna Ide)**
 - Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) Conference
 - Jenna Ide – The Conference was great! It was very different this year being online-only, but they did a great job. The intersectionality of race and environmental issues was very prevalent in the overall topic of the conference. This is something we want to discuss further for the Climate Action Plan we are working on with Beverly. It would also be great to have a speaker who can discuss this in the City, perhaps through a webinar.
 - Esmeralda Bisoño – It was great to see the main theme of the conference be race, social justice issues, and climate change. There were several webinars that focused on this but there were also others that were more technical, so there was a good balance of conversation topics. It was also a great place to make connections and meet new people from all types of sectors.



- We have access to all the webinars that we can go back and view for a year after the conference. We will see if we can share those videos with SERC members.
- Jenna Ide – There were also a lot of webinars on passive housing and building energy efficiency.
- Jeff Cohen – It is great to hear that the conference was good and informative. On a similar note, it would be great to diversify our committee. Salem has a large low-income and environmental justice communities that need to be involved in these types of conversations. The Solarize program we had promoting solar and air source heat pumps was fantastic, but how many people can really afford to make their home more energy efficient? It is important that we work on lifting those people up so that they have the same opportunities.
- Salem Municipal Harbor Plan – visit the website for more information:
<https://harborplan.salem.com/>.

Upcoming Events

Next Meeting – September 23, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Adjournment

- The Committee did not reach quorum, thus cannot vote on any matters. There was no official adjournment.

The meeting ended at 7:45 P.M. Minutes respectfully submitted by Esmeralda Bisono.

Persons requiring auxiliary aids and services for effective communication such as sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, or print material in digital format or a reasonable modification in programs, services, policies, or activities, may contact the City of Salem ADA Coordinator as soon as possible and no less than 2 business days before the meeting, program, or event.

Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 39 §23B, and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033. Please contact Jenna Ide at jide@salem.com or 978-619-5699 for more information.



98 WASHINGTON STREET, SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS 01970 ◆ TEL: 978.745.9595 FAX: 978.740.0404

◆ WWW.SALEM.COM