



Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2020 – 6:30pm

Remote Participation

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

Not in Attendance:

Public: Micaela Guglielmi, Pat Gozemba (Salem Alliance for the Environment “SAFE” Co-Chair), Nathan Young (City’s Sustainability Intern), Alan Hanscom (SATV), Alice Merkyl, Stan Franzeen (SAFE), Cindy Keegan (SAFE)

Introductions

Public Comment

- **Pat Gozemba (SAFE)** - Vineyard Wind’s Offshore Wind Project
 - SAFE is trying to gain some support & get comments in for an Offshore Wind project by Vineyard Wind (linked [here](#)). There was a great presentation at the end of June from Amber Hewitt of the Wildlife Federation. To learn more, see the presentation [here](#).
 - Offshore wind is being considered on northern MA, NH, and ME. The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is now reviewing a supplement to its Draft Environmental Impact Statement proposal from Vineyard Wind. We will not know if the proposal is approved until



December 2020, but if approved, it would set off a domino effect for offshore wind to start growing around the country.

- Pat has distributed a Word document that has talking points and an email address where groups and individuals can express their support. Please feel free to cut and paste statements from the talking points document, though it makes more of an impact to personalize the statement and explain who you are / what group you are part of.
- **Call to action:** Would SERC like to express their support as a committee to the Board of Ocean Energy Management?
- Discussion
 - Rick Nye – The Committee has been in favor of offshore wind for a long time, so I am comfortable sending in a statement from the committee.
 - John Hayes - I was planning on submitting a written comment in support of the project but I am willing to do it as Chair of SERC if the Committee agrees.
 - Jenna Ide – The City is also interested in regional aggregation. One option is to buy a long-term contract while supporting offshore wind. It could have a direct benefit of our energy procurement. In general, offshore wind has the potential to provide a cost-competitive and renewable energy source to North Shore residents. This is being looked at MAPC and several North Shore Communities.
- Jeff Cohen makes a motion: when John Hayes submits his comment, as chair of SERC, he does it on behalf of the committee. Doug Bowker seconds.
 - Chris Cantone – What specifically are we expressing our support for?
 - John Hayes – We are saying we support the proposal to bring offshore wind as a renewable energy source to the commonwealth of MA.
 - Pat Gozemba – This is not directly in support of offshore wind in Salem or the North Shore; it is directly in support of Vineyard Wind down in Nantucket Sound. Once that gets approved, it will



open the possibility of us in the North Shore being able to implement offshore wind.

- Phil Koch – Wouldn't this be us speaking for the Cape & islands?
 - Pat Gozemba – yes, it is us as a North Shore community supporting another community in their quest to acquire offshore wind.
- A roll call vote was done on the motion that Jeff Cohen made to submit support on behalf of SERC via Chairman Hayes. The motion passes unanimously.

Review & Approve Meeting Minutes from May and June

- Jeff Cohen makes a motion that the committee members review the minutes sent and send all revisions to Esmeralda by Friday at 10:00 A.M. Chris seconded.
 - A roll call vote was done, and the motion passes unanimously.

Discussion on Recycling with Micaela Guglielmi (City's Waste Reduction Coordinator)

- **Micaela Guglielmi discusses her role as the City's Waste Reduction Coordinator**
 - A lot of the job requires inspecting recycling bins, leaving notes when non-recyclables are in the bins (contamination), educating residents and business owners on waste reduction, and promoting composting
 - For composting, the City has a partnership with Black Earth Compost. We now have a site where residents can drop off their compost for free and Black Earth picks it up.
 - For our education campaign, we have the following events a few times a year: Textile reduction, book swaps, repair café, and more. Unfortunately, a lot of these events will change in the Fall because of COVID-19. We are looking at making them virtual or drive through events.



- Jeff Cohen – One of the issues in City Council is that we have to pay more money to Waste Management because in the past, recycling was cheaper to remove, but now it is equal or more costly than trash removal because the recycling is so contaminated.
 - A big factor in the cost increase is that the market is not doing well since China’s ban on accepting recycling from the U.S. Another is the increase in contaminated recyclables. Once contaminations get down to 10% it is much cheaper to send in. Plastic bags and films in the recycling bins are the biggest issue because they get stuck in the machine that separates recyclables.
- Here is a list of what can be recycled:
 - Plastic bottles, containers, & jugs; Cardboard; Paper; Glass; Cans/aluminum/tin.
 - “When in doubt, throw it out”
- Phil Koch – Marblehead made a mark when they banned plastic bags in the supermarket. Can the City implement a ban on plastic bags?
 - We do have this ban!
 - Gail Kubik – Because of COVID-19, the bans on single-use plastics were reversed.
 - Micaela Guglielmi – Stores are given flexibility but on October 1st, Salem will start enforcing the single-use plastic bag ban again.
- John Hayes – Does our trash go to Saugus for burning?
 - Micaela – Yes, at the Wheelabrator in Saugus.
- John Hayes – Do you drive around the city looking at compliance for residents?
 - Micaela – Yes. Have not done it since the pandemic hit but will start again soon. Usually in the morning will walk around certain streets, open the bins, and check how compliant the residents are being. Will leave a note if there is something wrong.
- Phil Koch – Waste is a large issue because of packaging. What can we do about it?
 - Micaela – Packaging is a big issue when looking at waste. Some companies are working on this already. For example, Amazon has an option when customers are shopping online where they will have reduced waste packaging, such as less plastics. It is important for customers to shop at places that have these options.



Personally, you can bring reusable produce and shopping bags, re-use items, etc. to reduce your own waste.

- Doug Bowker – There seems to be certain product categories that are resistant to it, but with larger products I have seen lately that many companies are switching over to cardboard only.
- John Hayes – In terms of our emissions/environmental pollution, it seems like the goal for City of Salem should be to reduce its trash in general. There are health and environmental impacts to burning the trash at Saugus Wheelabrator (many documented cases of local health issues near and downwind of Wheelabrator). The more that the City can do to reduce waste (trash, plastic, and food waste) would be best. Composting should really go city-wide. Micaela, let us know what SERC can do to help you in this effort.
- Gail Kubik – Behavior topic question: Saw a rise in meal plan boxes like HelloFresh or Blue Apron but heard that the City of Cambridge is having an issue with a rise in these orders since the pandemic. The food is packed with gel packs to make the food fresh and cold. It has become a big problem with people throwing them out in the streets, in the trash, and in recycling. It would leak out and into the soil and cause environmental harm. Has this been an issue in Salem?
 - Micaela – Yes, we have seen this in Salem. We can do some social media posts and website posts to educate about this.
- **A recording of the Recycling Discussion will be posted on the Salem.com website for anyone who is interested in viewing.**

Ordinance Updates

- The Green Building Ordinance was sent to City Council during their last meeting before the holiday break in August. It has been tabled and sent to the sub-committee Public Health, Safety, & the Environment (PHSE) to be reviewed by the public.
 - Jeff Cohen – We'll be in front of the committee sometime in September. We are getting some people to testify for the ordinance. I have spoken with a few



people who will review the ordinance. Jenna, could you send the ordinance to Tom St. Pierre & Tom Daniel?

- Jenna Ide – Yes. The Mayor and I discussed it today. The City solicitor and the City engineer is reviewing it. Councilor Riccardi was there to talk about it.

Project Updates

- **Beverly & Salem Climate Action & Resilience Plan – Jenna Ide & Esmeralda Bisono**
 - First steps of the process:
 - Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory – Creating a baseline inventory for calendar year 2018, which means that KLA with the help of City staff are collecting data on how much GHG emissions were released during calendar year 2018 so that it serves as a baseline for our plan to improve each year until we reach 0 in 2050 (MA state roadmap).
 - Form a *Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC)* which will formally meet 3 times throughout the process. We sent a draft list to KLA on Monday but will need to finalize it soon. John Hayes volunteered and has been invited to represent SERC on the CAAC.
 - Branding – We are in the process of finalizing a name, tagline, and logo to promote the Plan.
 - Recap of Kick-off Meeting on 7/13/20
 - Both Mayors were present, along with the core team in both Cities and the consultants/sub-consultants.
 - The Core Team in Salem consists of Jenna Ide (Director of Capital Projects & Sustainable Operations), Esmeralda Bisono (Sustainability & Resiliency Coordinator), Brittany Dolan (Conservation Agent/Planner), and Seth Lattrell (Harbor Agent/Planner).
- **Rocky Mountain Institute's (RMI) Building Electrification Accelerator Program – John Hayes, Doug Bowker, & Esmeralda Bisono**



- Link to more details on the program: [RMI 2020 Building Electrification Accelerator Program](#)
- This program will help us revise or improve on the ordinance that is already coming out. Getting the Green Building Ordinance in front of the City Council now while we are doing RMI will allow the City to have a deep conversation about electrification that we need to have. Council has not passed an environmental ordinance in a long time.
- **Discussion on City Internships & Part-Time Staff**
 - The City is currently looking for interns to assist us with the several projects we are working on. There will be job descriptions posted online in the next few weeks. More details to come.

Next Meeting – August 26, 2020 at 6:30 P.M.

Adjournment

- Jeff Cohen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Doug Bowker seconded.
 - Vote passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Esmeralda Bisono.

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