



Meeting Minutes - FINAL

January 1, 2018 6:30 PM

120 Washington Street, 3rd Floor

Attendance: Jenna Ide, Lisa Rosenthal, Rick Nye, Chris Cantone, Gail Kubik, Jeff Cohen, John Hayes, Jeff Barz-Snell

Public attendance: Phil Koch

1. Review and approve meeting minutes. Minutes from the December 21st meeting were approved unanimously after edits by John and others.

2. SERC Goals

a. *Funding options.* The committee discussed our need to identify and procure an ongoing source of funding so that SERC can 1) hire interns and 2) fund bigger projects such as feasibility studies and a retro commissioning project. We discussed the possibility of approaching Mayor Driscoll and/or the City Council to present our needs and budget.

Rick suggested that we should outline more specifically what we are looking to do with the money before we propose a plan to City Council. Chris suggested that 10% (or a different reasonable percentage) of the savings SERC has created through other projects could be allocated to the SERC fund. We could demonstrate how our projects can deliver ongoing savings to the City. Jeff C. encouraged us to approach this soon while the City Council is having budget meetings.

Action item: Approve Letter to Mayor Driscoll. We unanimously voted to draft a collective letter to Mayor Kim Driscoll requesting further conversations about the possibility of a SERC fund. We will present 3-5 key opportunities and ask for a \$50,000 annual SERC fund (\$20K for feasibility studies, \$20K for two interns, \$10K for a miscellaneous fund). To justify the budget, we will present the amount SERC has saved the City since its inception (or what we are able to quantify with data) and request a certain percentage of the savings to be allocated to a revolving fund that, once going, will be self-sustainable.

b. Jeff suggested that SERC members should be present at subcommittee meetings that affect the environment in Salem. Chris suggested the chairpersons of various committees should share agendas. Jenna proposed we all sign up for subcommittee alerts on the City of Salem's website.

3. SERC Projects and Updates

a. *Wind FAQ.* Jenna will update website with the FAQs from Dec 22, and then work on additional updates to post in April.

a. *Resiliency Event.* We discussed our intent to organize an event sometime in April to build upon the energy of Earth Day events occurring at SSU and around the North Shore. John offered that for the past 15 years he has moderated a panel at SSU but that he will be out of town this year and unable to moderate. He suggested that, if he is willing, Jeff Barz-Snell could moderate and Gail could speak about municipal resiliency planning. Another possible approach could be a collaboration with the Farmers Market, Salem Sound Coastwatch, and other area non-profits. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about resiliency and build support for funding feasibility studies.

Gail suggested that everyone review the tree diagram and resiliency study she sent last month and that we discuss it during our next meeting in February. She will bring hard copies of the tree diagram. John suggested we also write an FAQ page on resiliency, including defining resiliency planning and best practices in the field. Jeff C. proposed that Claudia Paraschiv, a local architect, would be a good person with which to collaborate in regards to a resiliency map or project.

We discussed the need for more discussion about the recent storm and flooding, and that a gallery of local storm photography might be a good starting point. Jeff asked if there is any GIS mapping of the storm. Chris suggested we go through DPW and police logs. Jenna will ask for information.

4. New Business.

- a. *Film event.* Jeff Barz-Snell announced a local event – a film screening of “Tomorrow,” a documentary film on agriculture, energy, economics and social policy, sponsored by SAFE & 350 North Shore. The first half will be shown on Feb 2; the second half will be shown on Feb 9.
- b. *Ipswich River.* Jeff Barz-Snell brought up the topic of the Salem Beverly Drinking Water board, which is requesting a new withdrawal permit for pumping water out of the Ipswich River by the state. He suggested the topic might be more of an issue this year because of ongoing challenging with Ipswich River. Part of issuing of permit requires Salem and Beverly to implement new conservation measures; to date, we have not. Jeff Barz-Snell agreed to invite director of the Ipswich Water Conservation to come in and present during the March meeting.
- c. *How to Address Local Companies.* Jenna discussed the fact that she is often approached by local companies, such as Homeworks, that want to advertise local energy-efficient services. As a City committee, we are unable to sponsor such companies. But, there is an opportunity to hold an event like the Green Fair, during which companies can promote their services and educate the public on options for solar panels, energy efficient products, and other “green” services.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa K. Rosenthal.
February 15, 2018*

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.

