

ZEAB
Zero Emissions Advisory Board
Minutes

March 2, 2022 10:00 AM

Meeting held remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19

ZEAB Members in attendance: Jesse Gray, Chair, Wendy Stahl, Kathleen Scanlon
Werner Lohe, Calvin Thompson

Staff: Thomas Barrasso
Linda Hickey

Welcome/Administrative Announcements

Chairman Jesse Gray opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

“For thirty years and more, we have known that by burning fossil fuels, we are initiating an escalating chain of planetary events beyond our control, putting our only planet at risk, and creating pain and suffering that is already experienced daily.

Now, we have arrived at a reckoning, testing whether our civilization, species, and planet will long endure. We are met in a town that has begun to awaken to this reckoning. We have come to plan how to eliminate our town’s emissions in a mere 18 years, to do our small part to solve the larger problem. It is important that we do this.

But we cannot halt, cannot arrest, cannot prevent the rise of the oceans by solving this problem in our one town. We cannot even eliminate *our own* emissions with the authority and resources that our town government now has. It is for us, rather, to be dedicated here to the seeding of a broader mobilization, one commensurate to the organized change our nation last undertook in World War II. It is rather for us in this town to identify the authority and resources that are needed, from the state government or federal government or elsewhere — to acquire that authority and those resources for ourselves and other like-minded communities — to demonstrate how to use that authority and those resources to eliminate our emissions — and to improve life in so doing, especially for those who need the most help — catalyzing our transition to a sustainable future, a better future, and one in which a third of all species do not perish from the earth”.

Good Energy Phil Carr thanked the board and stated that the presentation designed would align with ZEAB'S goals. The team introduced themselves. Stefano Loretto Patrick Roche, Daria Mark.

- BGE program and how Brookline residential voluntary renewables
- Stable pricing and strong participation
- Adding renewables keeping prices for low/moderate income participants
- Latest sweep low opt out rate shown
- Next renewable – new requirements
- State requirements

Good Energy timeline issuing, can talk about rates as it gets closer to renewal. More innovation and regulations, more time of use rates, direct invest in New projects, Community shared solar via aggregation.

Discussion and Possible vote on Policy formulation for next Brookline Green Electricity (BGE) contract, with Guest presenter Good Energy, the current Community Aggregation Contractor, and Climate Action Brookline's BGE team.

The chair presented a draft of the following proposal:

VOTED by the Zero Emissions Advisory Board, 3/2/2022

In executing and maintaining the Brookline Green Electricity program, the Town shall prioritize, in this order:

1. Maintaining affordable rates, defined as supply charges that are no more than \$8.30 greater on the default BGE product, for an average household, than the corresponding basic BGE product over the same period. In addition, minimizing wherever possible the impact on low and middle income citizens, including those on the Eversource low income residential rates, *e.g.*, through communication and potential rate discounts tied to solar installations, where permitted.
2. Increasing the default BGE option to 100% green electricity at the earliest possible opportunity, and providing additional greener opt-in choices, all with the goal of supporting, as directly as possible, projects that displace fossil fuel generation with new renewable or carbon-free resources such as solar, wind, or demand reduction.
3. Maximizing BGE as a policy instrument for emissions reduction, *e.g.*, by considering a new plan, new tactics, and use of BGE to support electrification of buildings and transport.

Werner Lohe; Glad to see Good Energy back this looks like a very good proposal.

Jesse – To get a good deal for the Town we have to move time is of the essence.

Diane Sokal Mothers out front – 600KW usage average hours per month lower to \$8.00

John Harris CAB, BGE Warrant Article; Great presentation couple of concerns think they should be added:

- continue to strongly explore Mass Class 1 reqs
- solicit a range of bids for different tiers of renewable
- clear and easy steps to opt up down in or out of the program
- continue charitable deduction provision for 100% green
- give town negotiators flexibility for town to negotiate for longer or shorter periods of time to take advantage of the best rates

Chair mentioned that these are great points that can be incorporated without being inserted in the language to be voted. He also indicated that some of them may be overly detailed for a policy resolution and could instead be addressed by the negotiation team. As an example, he cited that the charitable deductions, while great to have, should not necessarily be prioritized above cost savings that, unlike the charitable deductions, may apply to all customers.

Chair moved to adopt the Green Electricity Program proposal, as written above.

Calvin Thompson – Yes

Kathleen Scanlon – Yes

Werner Lohe – Yes

Wendy Stahl – Yes

Chair Jesse Gray - Yes

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

