

Hamilton Environmental Impact Committee (HEIC)
Minutes of meeting, Thursday, Aug 22, 2024
Location: Zoom meeting only

Meeting called to order at 5:02 pm by Jack Simons, who called the roll.

Members present: Jack Simons, Emmett Holt, Don Perkins, .

Also present: Rosie Kennedy, Selectboard liaison

Issues discussed and votes taken:

1. Call to order and roll call

2. Jack Simons assign recording responsibility for today's minutes to Emmett Holt.

3. Energy Manager - Vicky Masone – did not attend, but sent email at 4:32pm reporting on current projects:

- Electrification of Town Hall - we are still waiting to hear news of the \$500K Green Communities grant we applied for. We expect to hear any day now. In the meantime, there has been a Special Town Meeting called for 9/23 which will have a warrant article related to authorizing additional funds for the renovation project since the bids came in so high. There have been many meetings of FinCom and CapCom on this topic in recent weeks and I have provided them with lots of backup information on the energy piece of the project. This warrant article needs support from HEIC at Town Meeting.
- EECBG Grant - I applied for a \$50K EECBG grant on 8/16 for development of a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan for Hamilton. Wenham CASC wanted to do the same, but their Select Board voted instead to apply for funding for new windows in a section of the Iron Rail building. I wrote the grant for the Iron Rail windows project. I don't know when we'll hear about the grant.
- HWRSD Electricity Supply - In the last few weeks I worked with HWRSD to solicit quotes for electricity supply as their contract is up in September. I urged them to go for 100% renewable as Hamilton did, but in the end the Finance Director opted not to as they had overspent their utility budget in prior years. They locked in for 36 months with Constellation at \$0.12070/kWh.

4. Don Perkins - Specialized Building Code – Discussed his Selectboard 3-minute recommendation for Hamilton to adopt the Specilized Building Code for new housing and commercial construction. The Specialized Code will require all new residential and commercial construction to pre-wire buildings enable future electrification of heating and cooling, cooking and parking ready for electric vehicle chargers. A town meeting warrant article will be required to adopt the Specilized Building Code.

- Rosie Kennedy (SelectBoard Liaison) – provided an update on the 9/23 Town Meeting which will be limited to the funding of the Town Hall Renovation Project, so the April 2025 town meeting would be the target date for a Specilized Building Code.warrnant article. Next steps include working with the Planning Board to develop the warrant article and then working with the SelectBoard for their approval. Questions the board with ask: 1) What is the added cost? 2) What is the value the town and owner?

5. Emmett Holt – No new updates on Hamilton Community Choice Aggregation program.

6. Kim Strovink and Jack Simons HW Schools –

- New School Building Project: Various school option appears to be a very divisive issue in the town. The H?W School Building Committee is working to have a proposal ready for the April 2025 town meeting.
- Solar High School Roof and Parking Canopy – is stuck in a National Grid study with little urgency and no action plan or target date
- Bus electrification – Bob Knowles from the HWCAT has taken the lead to introduce Duncan McIntyre, CEO of Highland Electric Fleets in Beverly that actively provides contract electric bus fleets to school systems. Salter our current contract provider does not appear to be actively electrifying their HWRSB bus fleet.

7. Volunteer Fair, Sat Sept 21 – without an empty seat to fill we decided NOT to participate. More appropriate for the HWCAT to recruit more members.

8. HWCATs – is not scheduling a Fall Energy Event

9. Any ongoing topics or new business – Emmett Holt suggested that our committee should post relevant information using BOWSE pages linked to our committee web page:

<https://www.hamiltonma.gov/government/environmental-impact-committee/> Official HEIC content would cover responsible areas listed in the HEIC charter: <https://www.hamiltonma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022.08.01-Environmental-Impact-Committee-Charter.pdf> . HEIC would Complement and collaborate with Vicky's Energy Commission web page:

<https://www.hamiltonma.gov/government/energy-commission/>

- Conservation and efficiency: Reducing energy use
- Alternative energy: Replacing fossil fuels with non-carbon energy sources
- Infrastructure and fleet electrification:
- Waste management and composting:

Next meeting Thursday September 5th at 4PM on ZOOM

Jack moved to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Emmett, meeting adjourned by the Chair at 6:47pm

Minutes Prepared by: Emmett Holt

Emmett Holt, recorder

Respectfully submitted as approved at the October 3rd, meeting by Jack Simons, Clerk.