

Hamilton Environmental Impact Committee (HEIC)

Minutes of meeting, May 2, 2024

Location: Hamilton Council on Aging

Meeting called to order at 5:08 pm by Jeanne Maurand, Chair, who called the roll.

Members present: Don Perkins, Kim Strovink, Emmett Holt, Jeanne Maurand, Jack Simons

Invited visitors: Vicky Masone, town Energy Manager, by phone (5:08 – 5:32 pm)

Issues discussed and votes taken –

- Report of Energy Manager:
 - Contract for Town Hall renovation is still expected to go to bid 5/15 for the big renovations, to which the energy improvements are also tied. Items are still being moved out of the old town hall in anticipation of the work. We are told the Memorial Room is no longer in use. An application has been sent to National Grid, which will assist the town in identifying available financial incentives. Vicky will be very involved in the building process once construction starts.
 - Our Green Communities grant application is due 5/10 which could yield \$500k for electrification of the Town Hall.
 - Middle School charging station for EVs is in place. This is a level 2 charger accessible to the public, and currently free to use. More stations are in the works for the Buker School. The High School solar canopy is still stuck in a National Grid group study. Re the elementary school project, Vicky noted the benefit of involving National Grid early in the life of a project.
 - Vicky noted that Tom Geary is no longer Facilities Director for the School District. He has been a partner of a number of projects.
 - Wenham news: Wenham is considering a ground mount solar array at Iron Rail. Also, heat pumps are now installed at the Wenham COA. Vicky recently presented on energy issues at Wenham COA, where our chair Jeanne is employed. Jeanne recently attended a meeting with the new Wenham Climate Action and Sustainability Committee (CASC), our counterpart in Wenham. The committee has seven members plus a student representative from Pingree School. HEIC members were pleased to hear of Wenham's progress and look forward to meeting with CASC in the future.
- Minutes: Jack has been unwell and will for now discontinue taking minutes. The committee discussed how to take minutes going forward. We reviewed status of old minutes not yet posted and agreed on plan to approve and post them. Emmett moved to approve minutes of April 4, 2nd by Kim, approved by committee. Jeanne

moved to approve minutes of March 7, 2nd by Kim, approved by committee with minor edits.

- Vote at Town Meeting on athletic fields and artificial turf was briefly reviewed.
- Energy Fair on 4/27 was briefly reviewed.
- Kim noted that Crosby's and other stores are now distributing free bags woven from plastic that would appear to have a short life for reuse. Jeanne will inquire with statewide conservation organizations about actions that they may be taking or recommend on this issue.
- Kim reported that a resident asked her about Hamilton subsidizing rain barrels. Apparently, the town did this in the past, and Jack reported that Ipswich does this. Kim will follow up with the Town Manager. Jack noted that he has 3 barrels and would like more information on their practical use; he'll look for someone with expertise that we could share.
- Kim reported on her efforts to determine the extent to which the School District is recycling and composting. She previously was in touch with Tom Geary and will inquire about who is now in his role.
- Don spoke about state building codes, and hopes that Hamilton, having adopted the Stretch Code, will go further and adopt the state's Specialized Code. The Planning Board may be a source of expertise on this. He will get more information. He recommends the site zerocarbonma.org.

Next meeting Thursday, June 6, 5 to 7 pm. Zoom link to be posted.

Jack moved to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Emmett, meeting adjourned by Chair at 7:00 pm.

Prepared by:

Jack Simons, recorder

Respectfully submitted as approved at the June 6, 2024 meeting by Jack Simons, clerk