

Green Energy Committee (GEC)
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2023, 8am

Remote Participation Protocols:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the www.lincolntown.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen or watch the meeting may do so in the following manner:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94235388880?pwd=bkFNN0hIY2NMRllldnIWdHNzMVFIQT09>

Meeting ID: 942 3538 8880

Password: 460113

Dial by your

location: 646- 876- 9923

No in-person attendance by members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Town's website as soon as possible after the meeting.

Members Present: Roy Harvey, Ed Kern, Sue Klem, Ed Lang, Paul Shorb (chair).

Others Present: Alex Chatfield, Belinda Gingrich, Carol DiGianni, Jennifer Glass (Select Board representative), Trisha O'Hagan, Scott Rodman, Chuck Sizer, Collette Sizer, Lynne Smith, Anne Sobol.

Call to Order

Shorb called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Shorb asked for additional items for the agenda.

- O'Hagan noted the 6" pipes being installed on Highway 126 by the gas company.
 - Jennifer Glass informed that they had spoken with the Select Board, but the full purpose of the pipe improvement, other than to repair leaks, is unclear.
 - Action Item: O'Hagan to investigate a similar situation in Newton and how activity was halted.
- Lang provided an update from the School Building Committee meeting. There are problems at the library maintaining the temperature. Parts of the heat pump set-up are failing more frequently than expected. It's being addressed. Performance is in a troubleshooting stage.
- DiGianni would like to initiate a Citizens Petition to ban gas leaf blowers and was directed to GEC for support.
 - Glass suggested that the Climate Action Plan will address fossil fuel use.
 - Sue Klem informed DiGianni of Quiet Communities, a nationwide organizer.
 - **Action Item:** O'Hagan to connect with DiGianni.

Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings

All minutes were available to view on-line prior to the meeting. Shorb called for any edits to the **Sept 8, 2022** minutes. There were no changes. Shorb moved that the minutes be approved. Harvey seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Roy Harvey	Aye
Ed Kern	Abstained
Sue Klem	Aye
Ed Lang	Aye
Paul Shorb	Aye

Shorb called for any edits to the **Oct 13, 2022** minutes. There were no changes. Shorb moved that the minutes be approved. Lang seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Roy Harvey	Aye
Ed Kern	Aye
Sue Klem	Aye
Ed Lang	Aye
Paul Shorb	Aye

Shorb called for any edits to the **Nov 10, 2022** minutes. There were no changes. Shorb moved that the minutes be approved. Kern seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Roy Harvey	Aye
Ed Kern	Aye
Sue Klem	Aye
Ed Lang	Aye
Paul Shorb	Aye

Shorb outlined edits he made to the **Dec 8, 2022** minutes. He called for any additional edits. There were none. Paul moved that the minutes be approved as edited. Kern seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Roy Harvey	Aye
Ed Kern	Aye
Sue Klem	Aye
Ed Lang	Aye
Paul Shorb	Aye

Prep for 2023 Town Meeting

The State has published a so-called Specialized Energy Code. The Select Board anticipates co-sponsoring with the GEC a warrant article to adopt a bylaw to adopt that “opt-in” code. Glass noted that the by-law impacts new construction and level-3 renovation that involves major work on a home. She reported that Mark Robideau estimates it would impact up to three new homes and six to twelve renovations annually.

The Select Board also anticipates co-sponsoring with the GEC a warrant article to adopt a bylaw to implement the “ten towns” pilot program. That program allows a participating town to go beyond the Specialized Energy Code by more completely prohibiting use of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations than would the Specialized Energy Code on its own. Shorb raised two main questions: (1) What changes if any should GEC propose to the state’s recommended bylaw for the “ten towns” pilot program? (2) How will GEC do appropriate public education prior to Town Meeting?

- GEC’s final decision on proposed language for the by-law should be made by the GEC’s February 9 meeting, in part so it can be addressed by the Planning Board at its February 14 Meeting.
- Are there any exceptions from the prohibition in the draft bylaw that GEC would propose?
 - Most on the board were favorable to adopting the recommended by-law, with an exception for emergency generators. (Lincoln has many trees. Winter storm power outages are common and can last for many days. Some people rely on electricity for water as well as heat.)
 - Backup generators might be allowed but hard pipe for natural gas prohibited. Is it feasible to mandate only propane?
 - **Action Item:** Kern, Harvey and Shorb to investigate the propane option.
- GEC agreed that two information sessions will be offered to the public, one before the Planning Board Meeting on February 14, and one after.

Climate Action Planning Update

- Jennifer Curtin and MAPC are in the process of identifying a list of stakeholders that represent a deep cross-section of Lincoln. This group of stakeholders will create the Climate Action Plan working group. The committee is still looking for representatives for agriculture and the Council on Aging.
- The next meeting will discuss the strategy around the goals.
- **Action Items:**
 - Harvey to email the eight defined goals to the GEC members.
 - Klem to inform people of meetings coming up that are open to the public.
- Klem mentioned that MAPC and Jennifer Curtin are collecting goals for addressing climate change from their meetings with stakeholders

Other Business

- Scott Rodman brought up radon as a risk for homes in Lincoln, some of which have been found to have levels much higher than the recommended safe level for long-term exposure. The risk can be even higher when a living space is very “tight”. The risk can be eliminated by proper venting.
- After Scott had to leave, Shorb raised the question whether the GEC would want to co-sponsor with the Lincoln Board of Health an upcoming educational push about radon safety, consisting of a webinar and possibly other activities. After discussion, the GEC decided it would not appear as a co-sponsor but would be happy to help distribute announcement materials.

Shorb moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at about 9:40 a.m.

The next meeting will be February 9, 2022, 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Sizer, Minute-Taker
January 14, 2022