

Green Energy Committee (GEC)
Minutes Draft
April 20, 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=bkFNN0h1Y2NMRllldn1WdHNzMVFIQT09>

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, Christopher Eliot, Belinda Gingrich, Trisha O'Hagan, Scott Rodman, Chuck Sizer, Collette Sizer.

Call to Order

Shorb called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes –February 9, March 16 and April 6 Meetings.

Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting. Shorb will forward recommended edits to the Committee.

Climate Action Plan Process

Two recent workshops were held to prioritize strategies. Jen Curtin is in the process of taking all the suggestions and putting them into a manageable list. The process does not require that GEC submit any strategies or that the Committee vote on it. However, the comment period for suggesting strategies will be closing soon. A draft report will be available at the end of June. It will be circulated to the Town for comments. Jen Curtin will then incorporate any final changes before the Climate Action Plan is adopted by the Town. The September 30 Town Charette may "celebrate" the Climate Action Plan.

The Committee reviewed a list of strategies assembled by Shorb and Harvey addressing Energy, Buildings, Mobility and Data. The final version, incorporating comments from the GEC as requested, is linked [here](#). Additional comments captured from the GEC discussion are below.

- The Climate Action Plan should serve as a model for other small communities. Lincoln reviewed the plans of other communities in preparation for the Town's process. Other small towns will review our plan.

ENERGY

- Eliot proposed that airport issues be taken off the list. This issue is so complicated and could overwhelm Lincoln's focus.
- Advocacy – Town should advocate for state and other broader policies (ISO-NE, etc.) to decarbonize the grid and space heating.

“Advocate” means to suggest that the Select Board should write when appropriate to bodies such as the state legislature and executive branch about matters of state policy related to climate.

There is only so much a Town can do on its own. Some parts (e.g., ISO-New England) are even bigger than the State.

About 50% of the electricity on our regional grid is generated by burning natural gas and almost all the rest is from carbon-free sources (hydro, nuclear, solar, wind).

In some cases, the Town passing clean energy measures at the Town level can also help push state policy. E.g., when Lincoln joined five other towns that had passed home rule petitions that sought authority to ban gas hook-ups for new construction, that led to the State legislature authorizing a ten-town pilot in the 2022 climate act.

BUILDINGS

- Retrofit – Consider developing a plan for retiring gas lines, street by street.
- However, Lincoln must make sure there is a plan in place to accommodate resident transition away from gas before gas lines are retired.

DATA

- There should be a mandate that the Town offer an open site providing municipal information.
- Perhaps there should be a Town report reviewing building performance data, using EUI (Energy Use Intensity) data as the hammer.
- Property cards need to be updated. Rodman and Kern will connect on this issue.

Shorb invited Committee members to privately review the list and submit further comments to him, Klem or directly to Jen Curtin.

Kern proposed that GEC accept the list, subject to Shorb cleaning up the draft per today's discussion before forwarding it to the Climate Action Plan group. Lang seconded the motion.

APPROVED:

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

Other Business

CFREE will host a talk by Paul Gromer, who heads Peregrine, on May 23. Questions to be forwarded to Paul in advance should be sent to Ed Kern.

Kern moved adjournment and Lang seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

The next meeting will be May 11, 2023, 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Sizer, Minute-Taker
April 23, 2023