

# Lincoln GEC Minutes for June 10, 2021

Meeting called to order by Paul Shorb at 0810

Members Attending: Roy Harvey, Jim Hutchinson, Ed Kern, Sue Klem, Ed Lang, Paul Shorb (Chair), C.J. Valpone

Others attending: Alex Chatfield, Belinda Gingrich, Jennifer Glass, Diane Jong.

Minutes of the May 13 meeting as amended by Sue Klem were approved by all members except CJ, who abstained because he was not present May 13th.

## Summary of action items:

### Lincoln Green Energy Choice program

1. Opt-up tabling at Transfer Station - We will do this summer; Paul will create a sign-up sheet (unless someone else does); Alex & Trish will keep tabling materials available on their porch.
2. Also plan to table at Oct. 23 South Sudanese Education Fund event in Bemis Hall; maybe at Aug. 28 weekend PTO event; maybe at Farmers Market on Saturdays.
3. Paul to schedule a meeting of the CCA subcommittee in the next month or so.
4. Next CCA contract - GEC should start discussing in fall 2022, so can recommend parameters to the Select Board in time to get a new contract in place before the existing one expires (in March 2023? CJ will check).
5. Paul will ask Peregrine to print 200 copies of the brochure and send them to Sue.
6. Roy will investigate getting our opt-up blurb in the COA newsletter (free if possible).
7. Ed Kern will investigate the possibility of getting a relevant speaker for the Bemis Lecture Series.
8. Ed Kern will reach out to Dennis Liu, saying we hope he can join the next meeting of the CCA subcommittee.
9. Ed Kern will provide Jim access to the Peregrine data; Jim will attempt some additional types of analysis.

### Lincoln WIDE/recruiting

1. Paul will call Tom Longnecker, explore his interest in joining, and pass his email address to Sue.
2. Paul will call Allen VanderMeulen to seek ideas for diverse input.
3. Ed Lang will contact SLPAC people for same reason
4. Paul contact faculty advisor to LS Environmental Club for same reason

### Tasks identified but not yet assigned

1. Contact our friends & neighbors directly re opting up [develop model email / talking points for same]
2. Draft recruiting blurb (what GEC does, etc.)
3. Request WIDE contact list, send them recruiting request
4. Look for a parent/student combo package
5. Pursue other proactive networking in search of diverse members/non-member participation
6. In fall, approach large building owners to urge them to use an electricity supplier with more renewables.
7. Reach out to youth groups to connect with them on promoting green energy in their homes and schools.

## Lincoln Green Energy Choice Electricity Aggregation Program (LGEC)

- Ed Kern reported that as of June 6th, about 200 Lincoln accounts have opted up to the 100% Green option and about 120 have “Opted-Down” to Lincoln Basic. The 200 100% Green accounts represents just under 8% of the metered electricity accounts in Lincoln, which well is short of our 25% “stretch goal”.
- Kern reported that going forward he will be getting monthly registration and billing data for the program that is compiled by First Point. Jim Hutchinson and others expressed interest in understanding the correlations between customer kWh usage and price (or % green content). Hutchison requested access to the First Point data and Ed will make it available to him.
- Discussion then moved to planning for continued outreach for community members to Opt-Up and beginning to plan for the next contract for power as the current one expires at or near the end of 2022.
- We briefly discussed recent online discussions about the presentation of the program options against the winter Eversource basic service rate, which has been higher than the summer rate.
- Ed Lang asked why the Lincoln basic rate was \$0.01/kwh higher than the lowest rate in the Lexington program. C.J. Volpone will ask Peregrine to address the question.
- Continuation of the Opt-Up program will continue during the summer with “tabling” at the Transfer Station. Palm cards remain in reasonable supply. The CCA subcommittee agreed to meet separately to work out details of the summer plans.
- Paul will authorize Peregrine to print 200 brochures and send them to Sue who will work with Belinda to distribute some of them.
- Roy Harvey suggested getting “space” in the COA newsletter to report progress and seek additional opt-up households.

- Ed Kern suggested we ask the Bemis Lecture trustees if they would consider inviting a climate speaker to further motivate climate actions in Lincoln in general to further support the Opt-Up program.
- Future contracts for power under the program will be needed at the end of 2022. Generally we intend to increase the percentage of green energy over time, but not so abruptly as to cause too many Opt-Outs from the program or Opt-Downs within the program. The plan is to revisit the issue in fall of 2022, about six months before the current contract expires, and base the decision on the cost of MA Class 1 Certificates at that time.

## Subcommittee Structure

Paul Shorb presented a first compilation of the feedback he has received on the mission statements, membership and leadership of various GEC subcommittees and projects. Members were asked to provide him additional details and comments.

## Lincoln Welcome, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity (WIDE)

- Paul Shorb, Ed Lang and Sue Klem attended three training sessions offered by the Lincoln WIDE group. 120 townspeople and employees attended. They followed up with a one-on-one hour session with two of the volunteers leading the WIDE effort.
- The outline for discussion jointly developed by Sue, Ed Lang, and Paul and shared during the meeting proposed that the GEC could make better decisions through more diverse participation in our deliberations, noting that the members of the committee - generally older, white, and affluent - don't represent the full diversity within Lincoln. Sue observed that GEC is already doing a lot of outreach to a wide-range of Lincoln residents. Most issues before the GEC involve tradeoffs between favorable environmental impacts and lower costs, so a broader representation from lower income residents might help guide (temper?) the aggressiveness with which we pursue increased green content and reduced carbon emissions. Other issues coming up including new gas hookups and a stretch building code would also impact these cost-versus- environmental-impact choices that the GEC makes. Age was suggested as another important differentiator for GEC issues, since young people are exposed to more of the scary climate future.
- Jim Hutchinson suggested a survey of the town on these tradeoff issues and expressed interest in putting one together.
- Paul Shorb discussed meeting "best practices" such as to actively "hear" more opinions and further participation. One method (tried in this meeting) is to poll each member on key questions, and others are mentioned in the document distributed.
- We recently lost two committee members so we have room to recruit two (or even more) as full members. We also can keep in mind ways for non-members to participate, such as through subcommittees, as we pursue outreach and recruiting. Suggestions included an invitation "blurb" for the Town to circulate, brainstorming for names, networking.

- The Lincoln Housing Commission and the South Lincoln Planning Advisory Committee were suggested for identifying potential lower-income members from within the community. Paul Shorb and Ed Lang respectively will reach out.
- It was suggested that Dennis Liu might be interested in participating, possibly initially through the planned CCA subcommittee meeting expected to happen in the next few weeks. Ed Kern will reach out to him.

## Other Business:

- Sue Klem suggested that Tom Longnecker was suggested by John Snell as a potential member; Paul will reach out to Tom.
- Sue further mentioned a Sudanese Fund event at Bemis Hall being organized by Susan Winship for October 23, where GEC could “table” for opting up and other initiatives.
- Next GEC meeting will be virtual, July 8th. We are assuming that virtual format will remain permissible, but open meeting laws must be amended by the MA legislature by June 15th for it to be legal.

Jim Hutchinson moved to adjourn at 0935. Paul seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted:

Edward Kern  
6/10/2021