



MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 24, 2022

PLACE: Remote meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Moyer (Chair), Thomas Morahan, Elliott Place, Beth Porter, Kathy Reardon, Carlos DaSilva, and Maria Zade

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Tondorf-Dick, Nancy Wiley, Tom Roby and Shannon Kacherovich

GUESTS: Tanya Bodell, Ginny LeClair, John Malloy, Brianna Bennett, Paul Sprecher, Brenda Black

ATTACHMENTS: 2022.3.24 HMLP Electrical Infrastructure Reliability Project, CAPC Presentation; 2022.3.24 Energyzt Introduction to Hingham CAPC Project Presentation

The Chair called the duly noticed meeting to order at 7:04 PM, and presented the Virtual Open Meeting Protocol and Procedures as outlined in the Governor’s Chapter 20 Pandemic Directive of 2021. The Chair further explained that in order to provide an opportunity for all to provide input, participants should raise their hand to indicate a desire to speak. Once the participant is recognized by the Chair, s/he should keep the remarks to agenda, and be succinct and respectful. If the participant does not, s/he will receive a warning from the Chair. If the participant continues to violate the norms, s/he will not be recognized to speak by the chair.

Introduction of Tanya Bodell, Executive Director, Ginny LeClair, Director and Project Manager, and John Malloy, Senior Associate, all from Energyzt Advisors, CAPC’s hired consultant for developing Hingham’s CAP

Review, Editing and Unanimous Approval of February 9, and March 2, 2022 minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the meetings of February 9th and March 2nd. Several edits were recommended to each of the documents. Brad Moyer made a Motion to accept the Minutes with the suggested edits, which was seconded by Elliott Place. The Committee then unanimously voted in favor of approving the minutes.

Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant (HMLP) presentation on the proposed transmission station project with Questions and Answers from CAPC

Tom Morahan, HMLP General Manager, CAPC Member, introduced the presentation on the proposed HMLP Transmission Station. This will be the subject of a proposed Town Meeting Warrant Article requesting the Select Board to Appropriate and Transfer Land at the Transfer



Station at the location for the new transmission Station. This proposed Transmission Substation will allow the HMLP to access a second redundant power feed from the Eversource high voltage lines serving Weymouth, Hingham, Hull and Cohasset.

Tom Morahan, HMLP's General Manager's Power Point Presentation, **2022.3.24 HMLP Electrical Infrastructure Reliability Project, CAPC Presentation**, is included as Attachment A.

Question and Answers (paraphrased) during and following HMLP's Presentation

Brad Moyer: Is the new transmission project for redundancy or for increased electrification or energy needs in the town?

Tom: Right now, load has been flat, so this is a reliability project, not a capacity project and we're not putting in another transformer. Down the road as load increases we'll need another transformer. The site will accommodate the added new transformer.

Tom: We have a website, www.HEIRP.com to see an overview of the project.

Beth Porter: How can we best support it?

Tom: Well the first thing is the Hingham Town Meeting toward the end of April, where we will ask for custody and control of the property (adjoining the transfer station); there will be various hearings and next year we'll have to come back to Town Meeting for funding.

Brad: Will eminent domain be required for the underground part of transmission?

Tom: It's all in public domain both in Weymouth and Hingham

Brad: Best case scenario, when would it be completed. Tom: 2026

Kathy Reardon: This project will be completed in 2026. Increasing capacity (additional transformer, etc.) would be after 2026?

Tom: That will depend on whether load increases. We have the capacity now but as electrification increases we'll have to look at a new transformer, but not for 3 or 4 years until after this is built.

Kathy: So this is a key preliminary before increasing capacity.

Tom: Yes, we would not be able to add a new transformer without this (reliability) station. At some point we will need a new transformer.

Brad: What's the average percentage use of our capacity?

Tom: Our maximum capacity is 80 megawatts and our peak is 57 megawatts or so

Brad: Yep, almost two thirds (capacity)

Tom: But if you have a transformer out, we're right on the edge, as we start to increase that load.

Introductory meeting with Energyzt Advisors, LLC to kick-off the climate action planning



effort: Tanya Bodell: This is our kickoff meeting and who we are. We'll have some immediate action items, some **Homework Assignments**, and some analysis that we've already done.

Tanya led Energyzt's presentation, **2022.3.24 ENERGYZT Introduction to Hingham CAPC Project Presentation**, which is included as Attachment B.

Question and Answers (paraphrased) during and following Energyzt's Presentation

John Malloy and Tanya: Reasons for including non-controversial climate resiliency measures in a CAP include availing ourselves of different funding opportunities and incentives, showing due diligence and to "give you a peg to hang a grant application hat on."

Brad: Would you recommend a linkage to Hingham's 2019 Municipal Vulnerability Plan in our CAP?
Tanya: Yes we can use the MVP in writing grant applications. It is important to refer to a Climate Resiliency Plan in the CAP to show we haven't ignored that aspect.

Brad: With regard to the disparities among different towns' CAPs, were the Climate Action Plans defined with a net zero or a carbon neutrality goal, or were there other goals associated with that?
John Malloy: There's was typically a mix, mainly addressing net zero and greenhouse gas reduction, but some were more directed at smaller goals such as waste reduction, transportation goals, etc.

Maria: What's in the building category?

John: Different building standards, heating implementation

Maria: What about decommissioning and building materials

John: There's some discussion on the materials used in building, but primarily focused on existing buildings, improving their efficiency and then increasing different standards for future builds.

Maria: How about zoning changes? John: Yes, that's part of the discussion in many towns.

Brad: What is your recommendation for a Net Zero standard?

Ginny: Every community has its own definitions and priorities so we are open to hearing from you. This is your CAP. It's your plan, what you want to see in it, your vision and goals.

Ginny LeClair: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory- bench marking your energy usage is the start of any CAP. Being a member of Green Communities and working with Mass Energy Insight on Municipal Emissions means Hingham is ahead of the game in this assessment of where you're at and setting goals. Benchmarks are crucial--different tools are available. Ongoing GHG Inventory shows accountability and leadership as implementation continues.

Elliott: How do we know which tools are best?

Ginny: We will give you the pros and cons for each or the tools, and make recommendations, but you decide

Tanya: We are here as independent advisors, to give you the information that you need to make an



informed choice.

Brad: Tom, what method is the town using right now?

Tom: Energy New England (ENE) and Mass Energy Insight (MEI) does it for us

Brad: Is GHG inventory going to be conducted by the Town or HMLP? My impression is HMLP will feed the data, the Town will lead the inventory.

Brad: How does our data get inputted into MEI for the Town? Manual vs. Automatic?

Brianna and Tom will find out

Brad: We'll connect ENE and MEI (Mass Energy Insight) to Energyzt

Ginny: MEI covers municipal emissions, but we'll need another tool to get community-wide emissions.

Tanya: That Hingham has set a clear net zero goal by 2040 or so is great, but how we achieve the goals, with practicality and costs must be decided as we go along. There is a benefit to moving with the trend, for example the Mass. 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap. "The Trend is Your Friend." The path will not be straight and narrow. Milestones along the way must be identified and targeted. Updates and revisiting goals will be necessary at different milestones with resulting adjustments, yearly, every ten years, etc. Alliance with Town Governance is crucial. We must make sure that all parts of town are included. HMLP's focus on all clean renewable sources of electricity is crucial. In turn electrification of the town is necessary. Self-supply using clean energy. Renewable natural gas (residual emissions) is a transition strategy.

Elliott: What is meant by renewable energy sources?

Tanya: Up to us to decide. Some states include wood chips [pellets] and Biomass as renewable energy sources; others don't.

Brad: We also need to consider converting Oil Heat, in a significant percentage of Hingham homes.

Tanya: Natural Gas is important for resiliency, according to many communities and towns. We need to make the case for converting to electric heat, heat pumps, etc. to be economically viable and reliable.

Kathy Reardon: What is Renewable Natural Gas?

Tanya: Synthetic Natural Gas created from renewable sources

Tanya: We must decide what can be done (practicality), what is economic and equitable, what appetite is there for incremental cost, etc. All these factors are important. Existing stakeholder processes, conversations, persuasion, conversion, fairness, etc. at ground levels will be crucial.

Homework item- We need to know who the influencers are in the town governing process.



Maria: 1st Public Meeting is scheduled in April or possibly May. Should it be virtual or in-person?
Tanya: We'll have to push out the date Ginny: We can do either in-person or virtual, up to us.

Maria: How do we get Naysayers to come and engage in dialogue?

Ginny: We need to work with CAPC's Community Engagement and with other town groups. Who are the naysayers? We need to identify those parties.

Brad: I think some of the naysayers may not exist, yet. The devil will be in the details, and the earlier we put out the contours of the CAP, the more readily we will shake out naysayers.

Elliott: Naysayers are our best opportunities

Tanya: Yes, let's find these folks; they have valid points of view and we need to get their feedback.

Homework item- Identify Naysayers and their messages to invite and engage them in dialogue.

Carlos: How about Robocalls to bring folks to public meetings

Brad: Don't know if that's possible

Brad: We also have local papers...

We need to identify best way to reach out to public to engage folks and elicit responses, get them to Public Meetings organized by Energyzt.

Paul Sprecher: What about the discrepancy between Massachusetts's goal timeline (2050) and Hingham's timeline goal (2040)

Tanya: We will give estimates and assess how realistic our goals/milestones are and we can adjust.

Homework item- Study various towns' climate action plans with the goal of deciding which ones are closest to what we want in Hingham. See page 28 of Energyzt presentation for a list

Homework item- Identify relevant people in town who know how to get energy usage data, e.g. those who have been inputting Green Communities Data, National Grid Data for natural gas, HMLP with ENE and MEI for electrical data, etc. so that Energyzt can contact them.

Brad: We can help formally connect Energyzt with National Grid to help with GHG Inventory and other assessments. I will give you the Working Groups so you can ally with them and we can adjust the groups as we see fit.

Brad: What is your meeting recommendation?

Tanya: For at least first two months, every two weeks

Brad: We can basically do that and/or arrange meetings with Working Groups.



Working Group Updates

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Working Group did not report.
- Energy Infrastructure Working Group did not report.
- Community Engagement Working Group / Regional Engagement Working Group:
Brief report on the marathon meetings of the Select Board and Advisory Committee meetings leading to inclusion of the Sustainability Coordinator position in their respective budget proposals
- Residential Net Zero Working Group did not report.
- Grants Subcommittee did not report.

Brad: Sue Nickerson will set up a town CAPC gift account that folks can donate \$ to for incidental costs such as setting up a table and materials at Eco Fest.

Kathy: With that master list of towns with CAPs which ones have municipal lighting plants (MLPs)? That seems to be the best comparison for Hingham's purposes.

Brad: HMLP, can you get us a list of Mass. towns with MLPs?

Tom: Yes, we have 41 on our list

Kathy: Can we have the Energyzt presentation sent to us on the committee? Also, what was the assessor's data and other vehicle data requests?

Tanya: Assessor's Data- square footage of homes, # of EV's in town and the average miles per gallon for other vehicles

Kathy agreed to seek out that data

Beth offered to propose and send committee assignments by google doc to ensure a variety of other towns' Climate Action Plans are reviewed for our Energyzt Homework

Possible Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Homework Review: Other towns' CAPs and how they fit or not with ours; Who are Influencers, Naysayers, Stakeholders, and Relevant People for various data input?
- Abode Presentation
- HMLP Incentives
- Preparation for CAPC/Energyzt Public Meetings- dates and in-person or virtual?

The next CAPC meeting is scheduled for 7pm, April 6, 2022, and this meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.

Respectfully submitted, Elliott Place



ATTACHMENT A

2022.3.24 HMLP Electrical Infrastructure Reliability Project, CAPC Presentation



ATTACHMENT B

2022.3.24 ENERGYZT Introduction to Hingham CAPC Project Presentation