

MINUTES  
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 16, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Attending: Present: Andrea Chasen, Minoos Tehrani, David Miller, Kevin Shea, Steve Marantz, Michael Massie,

Absent: Liz Bone

Guests: Corrin Meise-Munns, Joseph Mitchell, Eric Bosworth, Matt Wilson, Kim Barton, June Greig, John Imperatore, Vhoude, Karen Wilson.

1. Opening of Meeting: Andrea read the rules allowing for public meetings to continue to be held by zoom, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

2. Discussion of minutes from April 28, 2022. . Steve Marantz made a motion to accept the minutes from April 28, 2022, Minoos 2nd. Roll call, all in favor. Mike Massie abstained.

3. Presentation of Eversource Geothermal Pilot Project: Presented by Matt Eric Bosworth, Project Manager from Eversource.

- Closed-loop system, vertical. Drilling 500 ' down, and servicing many households. Mixed-use customers are allowed by DPU, serving about 100 customers. Is it a good replacement for gas? Maintenance, financials, efficiencies? In the design phase now and reaching out to customers in a neighborhood to sign them up. Regulations not written yet for a geothermal system like this yet so might be some roadblocks.

Questions about the presentation:

- How are emission reductions measured? *Need data from residents on what they use now for oil but they have the gas/electricity data from being the utility company to gauge the savings.*

- Choice of area. Were there concerns about the area being so dense? Do you need a certain density for efficiency? A good cross-section of customers and space for putting the pipes in.

- How does this project compare to the project in Belmont? Natl grid project? For this new project they need to work with residents and municipalities. The Belmont one is a school project.

- Is there backup heat needed? It's designed not to need one but they are building one anyway.

- Homes need ductwork? If needed they will provide ducts and run new pipes.

- Why Framingham area? Chosen through a site selection process. Showed interest, are they the dual utility, feasibility, depth of bedrock, efficiency, infrastructure likeliness. Report submitted to the DPU a few weeks ago.

- Pros/ cons about system and why shouldn't someone do it themselves? Because the utility companies are paying for it.

- Built-in redundancies? Backup heat and utility will be a backup chiller and heater, supplemental.

- Any risks with digging the wells? 500 ft isn't too deep in digging terms, the real challenge is water if there is any.

Hydrogen sulfide? Know danger and co2, radon and earthquakes? How is it safe? And the long term is only 20 years.? Those concerns are only for deep digging wells.

- How general are wells for houses for water? 100-200 feet.

- Avg depth of a well? would you only need to go to 200? They did a test and the engineers said it should be around 500 ft.

Pump skids, local to the area? Yes, it will stay close to the neighborhood.

- If the well is shallower, would the system last longer? It doesn't matter, its just matters if the pipes deteriorate.

- What happens to infrastructure if not used? Leave it in place and a parking lot on top of the well. Will put customers back to their old heat/cool or hook them up to a heat pump.

Slides on a link on the Eversource website and you can sign up for updates. (See E & S Facebook page for slides and link)

4. Presentation by Matthew Wilson (student of Minoo)- Combating Climate Change in Zurich: In Zurich, energy comes from nuclear, hydro, wind, water, and biomass. 75% from renewables. Successes- city planning, infrastructure, strict carbon laws, strict water quality laws.

60% of residents use public use transportation.

Waste- high recycling rate, pay for more trash.

Carbon neutral by 2040 and stop soil degradation by 2050.

Capturing CO2 systems,(Climworks has a system that captures CO2 and transfers them into greenhouses.) taxing CO2 producers and gas.

Taxes-\$130 per ton of CO2 emissions- highest in the world.

Questions about the presentation:

-Reduce concrete? How? Not sure, but want to use less because it cracks.

-Soil degradation? What causes it? Concerned about pollution.

- Incentives? Focusing on the big users.

5. MassSave audits: About 550 audits done in the last 2 years. MassSaves will be offering grants to towns to promote and develop a way to get more audits. A small group will be working on it.

6. Longmeadow Days: Have a tent and talk about our efforts. Oct 8-9. Get some HS students to help.

7. New business:

:Letter to Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs: Pipeline analysis required for the new pipeline because of the location. Tues, June 21, 2022, 11AM site visit.

Presentation and Q & A opportunity during the evening.

Comments: Steve Marantz made motion to send the letter to Brian Ashe, Eric Lesser, MEPA, and other legislators and Select Board members. David Miller 2nd motion to send letter.

Question: Will Eversource be digging for new pipe? Yes, going along the existing pipeline. Not taking out the pipe, just running alongside. There are no new customers and they have lost some customers actually so doesn't make sense why they need more gas. Eversource is saying they need it only if the bridge blows up and the Agawam gate station blows up. They haven't proven the case for building it. Roll call. Abstain- Mike Massie. All in favor.

: Minoos will send a link for a Switzerland conference about energy to all members.

Meeting adjourned: 8:11pm, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Liz Bone