



TOWN OF BOXBOROUGH NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING Meeting Minutes

BOARD/COMMITTEE: Sustainability Committee

MEETING DATE: January 8, 2020

TIME: 7:00pm

PLACE: Town Hall, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough MA

Members Present: Francie Nolde, Chair; Barbara Salzman, Member; Richard Garrison, Member; Larry Grossman, Member; Palmer Moore, Member (remote participation due to family medical issue)

Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: Connor Reardon, LELWD

Summary of discussion of each topic:

- 1) December minutes: Member Grossman moved to accept minutes from the December 11, 2019, meeting. Chair Nolde seconded. *Approved: 5-0 (roll call)*
- 2) 2030 Master Plan report: Member Grossman noted that the stretch code is outdated, so this is not a big lift to ask the town to adopt. We may see pushback from local builders, but it's been mandated in City of Boston for 6 years. Member Garrison was uncertain if the stretch code maps were accurate and unsure if they included municipalities that adopted the code and then subsequently opted out. Member Salzman recalled visiting with the current town building Commissioner to inquire about adopting the stretch code, noting that had the town moved forward with it sooner then perhaps developments like Town Center would have had to abide by it. Member Moore had no comment on the matter. Nolde noted that we would be taking a vote on this as a committee and then taking it to the Select Board to propose that it be included in the warrant for the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting. The committee's update indicated that the passive building component requires additional study before a recommendation can be made. Grossman highlighted that the update did not speak to LEED certification, as mentioned in the Boxborough2030 Master Plan Action 3.4.3.3. Grossman explained that LEED is entirely separate from the stretch code and requires significant investment, both from the developer and the town, who must review the associated documentation. Garrison moved to submit the committee's updates to the Select Board as written. Salzman seconded. *Approved: 5-0 (roll call)*
- 3) Questions for LELD: Representative Reardon presented a printout of LELD's responses to the committee's questions. Question 1) Reardon provided a chart displaying the percentage breakdown of LELD's energy supply, including all Massachusetts RPS-eligible renewable

energy sources. Nolde highlighted that approximately 30% of LELD's supply comes from such RPS-eligible sources. Question 2) Reardon confirmed that LELD aspires to increase its use of RPS-eligible renewable energy sources in the years ahead. Question 3) Reardon highlighted that the power doesn't physically get transported to LELD, they purchase the power, and those sources create Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) as renewable energy sources. Question 4) Moore highlighted that it appeared LELD retired a majority of the RECs it purchased through its renewable energy suppliers. Salzman asked for clarification regarding the difference between energy and RECs, Moore explained that the energy is simply the kilowatt-hour being generated, but the REC is the environmental benefit – the carbon offset created by generating that kilowatt-hour from a carbon-neutral source. Question 5) Moore suggested that LELD may want to consider a different name for its green energy customer credit other than 'Renewable Energy Credit', to avoid confusion about what is being transferred to the customer. Nolde asked Reardon if he could comment on action items under Goal 5.1 of the Boxborough2030 Master Plan. Regarding Action 5.1.1.1, Reardon noted that there is still plenty of net metering capacity remaining. Regarding Action 5.1.1.3, Moore posed that a community shared solar project would only export power and thus would not be a 'net metering' project, and as such would not reduce LELD's net metering capacity. Regarding Action 5.1.2.1, Reardon noted the need for educating customers about when peak demand occurs on the LELD grid and how to schedule electricity loads around avoiding that peak. **Action Item(s): Nolde to reach out to library to confirm their current lighting and do they have plans to do a lighting retrofit?**

- 4) Devens HHW trip: Grossman noted the HHW measure would require education regarding the costs and benefits, and as such it was important to visit the facility to help with the education process. **Action item(s): Nolde to reach out to Ed Kukkula, DPW Director, to see if he can arrange to have someone at Devens escort committee members around the facility.** Grossman discovered that the Devens facility is not open until March 2020. Nolde tentatively scheduled Saturday, March 7th, for a visit. Moore suggested asking Kukkula if he knows someone at Devens who might be willing to show us around before they reopen in March.
- 5) RDP update: Nolde reached out to Kukkula to ask if he could attend the next committee meeting in February and is waiting on a response.
- 6) Solar bylaw update: Moore noted that there is no update, and that he has not connected with Nancy Filmore, other than exchanging a few emails. Nolde noted that Filmore is planning to present a draft to the Planning Board in early February. Nolde had forwarded a list of comparable towns to Planning Board Chair: Bolton, Carlisle, Harvard, Middleton, Sterling, Stow, Upton, West Boylston, and Westminster. Salzman reviewed neighboring towns' solar bylaws, including Acton, and expressed concern about the balance between renewable energy and visual impact in our small, rural community. Members agreed that this would be a point of contention amongst residents and would continue discussion around this and other key aspects of any eventual bylaw.
- 7) Other: Nolde noted the recommendation sent to the Select Board in November. Grossman mentioned a community member who reached out regarding animal rights as it relates to life

science facilities and wanted to get the others' support in blocking that industry from entering our community. Members agreed this was not something that the committee could support.

List of Exhibits used, if any:

LELD responses to committee's questions