

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Minutes, April 11, 2022

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)

Peter Doyle, Chair, B. Clay Schofield, John Solomon, Rob Wilson

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:

Jane Ward, Vice Chair, Dr. Paul Canniff, Kathryn Hautanen

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant, Jeffrey Mendes citizen, Conor Miller Partner, CEO Black Earth Compost

Call to Order:

Peter Doyle, Chair called the April 11, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:02 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of March 28, 2022 minutes postponed to next meeting.

New Business

Guest Speaker Conor Miller Partner, CEO Black Earth Compost presents data regarding the steady growth to become the leading full service compost company in New England. The company is dedicated to collecting food scraps from residents, schools, supermarkets, and colleges all across eastern MA. Black Earth Composts the material, returning it to customers as well as selling it to garden centers. Conor Miller describes cost effective options bringing Black Earth Compost to Barnstable. Black Earth would need to find clusters of 30 plus residents interested in food waste composting. Connor describes costs as sliding scale as more customers sign on the rates would decrease. Conor Miller shows map of Black Earth Compost customer locations. Black Earth Compost is currently serving Falmouth, Mashpee and Yarmouth. John Solomon reports that Barnstable Transfer Station is in communication with Black Earth Compost to possibly begin transfer station pick up of food waste compost. Peter Doyle asks "How does Black Earth Advertise?" Conor Miller sent an email link to a three minute YouTube video the company uses for advertising. Conor Miller explains he has a sales representative that does do calls but the results are not great because restaurants expect it to be a free service. Black Earth Compost pick up is a service with expenses that need to be covered. Members discuss the MassDEP ban on disposal of commercial organic wastes by businesses and institutions that generate one ton or more of these materials per week. The threshold will be lowered to a half-ton or more weekly effective November 1, 2022. Infrastructure and Energy Committee Members discuss attending Village Association meetings and Board of Health meetings to get information out. Conor Miller suggests build a list of interested persons. Possible use of QR codes to track information about interested parties.

Peter Doyle will develop an action list and assign to members at the next Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meeting.

Peter Doyle notes the need to vote on whether Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meetings should be recorded and posted to web page for citizens to view. Peter Doyle will discuss at the next Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meeting.

Old Business

Chatham's Net Zero ordinance and State of Massachusetts net zero Kathryn Hautanen, No Updates.

Recycling subcommittee John Solomon reports is ready meet with Daniel Santos regarding moving forward with the budget. John Solomon asks the committee members if they had any questions or comments on the budget. John Solomon asks members to start to think about the half ton limit on food waste and how it gets enforced. John Solomon asks if private haulers in Town of Barnstable are required to offer recycling. Peter Doyle says that is a Daniel Santos question.

Peter Doyle sets up meeting with Daniel Santos for Thursday, April 21, 2022. Peter Doyle, John Solomon and Cynthia Cole will attend.

Sustainability Position Gordon Starr
No Updates

Cape Light Compact Liaison Clay Schofield

Clay Schofield spoke with Margaret Song Commercial & Industrial Program Manager. Margaret Song and RISE Engineering completed a Municipal Energy Audit (MEI) last year. But then Town Council voted down the stretch code. So out there are the results of the evaluations as well as their recommendations. Margaret Song was reluctant to share them with Clay Schofield. Margaret Song would like to ask David Anthony if she can share information. Clay says if we look at some of more effective and more cost effective suggestions that were made. We could create a priority list based on that and present it to the Town Council so that they could start working on funding some of those opportunities.

Clay Schofield says that voting down the stretch code was unfortunate. Clay Schofield states maybe Infrastructure and Energy Committee needs to start rebuilding a case to bring it back. Clay Schofield suggested developing a podcast or YouTube video of the process of the evaluation and subsequent rehab that he is doing on his house. The presentation of the process a homeowner going through the process to make people more comfortable with getting Cape Light Compact involved. Margaret Song will reach out to Rise Engineering and see if they'd be interested in being part of the video.

Peter Doyle will reach out to David Anthony to set up meeting to go over the Municipal Energy Audit data. Peter Doyle states Town Council passed a resolution to pursue the Municipal Energy Audit suggestions and the Electric Vehicle Policy suggestions. Peter Doyle will ask them where that lives. Then turn it over to Clay Schofield.

Clay Schofield would like video brainstorming session on the next agenda. Brainstorming ideas for the audience and what we want to achieve with the video.

John Solomon explains that depending on the temperature, mini splits are more efficient when it's warmer outside. Temperatures above maybe 30 degrees the mini split will be more cost effective. For every dollar that you spend, you'll get more heat. If it's very cold outside oil burners are going to be better. Not saving a lot of money heating with a mini split instead of oil. The cost of installing the mini split even with rebates is considerable. "Retrofitting with mini-splits could be a tough sell, just on an economic base, without considering environmental concerns. For new construction the economics for mini-splits are better because you are doing both your heating and your air conditioning with a single system".

Adjourn

Peter Doyle asks for a motion to adjourn meeting. **Motion** moved Clay Schofield to adjourn the April 11, 2022 meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 5:53 PM, 2nd by Rob Wilson; four members in attendance voted affirmatively.

Next Meeting: April 25, 2022 5:00PM | Remote Zoom Meeting

Upcoming Meeting: May 9, 2022 May 23, 2022

Documents and Exhibits

Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes – April 11, 2022 Meeting

Handout 1: Agenda, April 11, 2022

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes March 28, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski