

# Board Members

Carey Bergeron, Chair

Lawrence Ellsworth, Member

Alex Siekierski, Member

Kristen Rice, Member

Jason Reposa, Member

Martin Dietrich, Member

David Travalini, Member

Stephanie Carlisle, DPW Staff Contact

John Foresto, Bd Slctmn Liaison

Bob Tucker, PEDB Liaison

Town of Medway

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Energy and Sustainability Committee

**February 17, 2021**

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor’s Orders imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted at this meeting. Committee members may be participating remotely. For public meetings, access via Microsoft Teams is provided for the required opportunity for public participation.

**Members present:** Carey Bergeron, Kristen Rice, Jason Reposa, Martin Dietrich, David Travalini, Alex Siekierski Larry Ellsworth, Stephanie Carlisle and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

# **Absent:** none

# **Also Present:** Denise Allard and Mark Cappadonna from Colonial Power Group

**Call to Order**

Carey called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm

**Community Choice Aggregation discussion with Denise Allard and Mark Cappadona from Colonial Power Group.**

Carey asked if it’s possible to look into an aggregation with multiple towns. Mark stated that you can but he advises everyone get their own aggregations. If down the road, your needs don’t align, you can’t break up. Larry asked if they still have to get there plan up and running and go out to bid and look at who else is out to bid and ask them to join? Mark said he puts them through the process individually. They could start in January and anyone coming up for contract could go out to bid at the same time and combine the load. They want you to stay with the same term length- an 18, 24, 36 etc. Larry asked is there a formal agreement that has to be drawn up. Marc stated no it is just a pooled buy; you are not bound together except for the same term. Carey thinks if they approached it that way they might get the town to agree to a longer term contract. Marc could show them the benefits as usually people do better on the longer terms. The situation in Texas is going to have an effect on the pricing. Pricing done three years ago did not have a polar vortex built in. Carey stated the Board is concerned about when the prices go higher that Nstarin the summer as people will start complaining. They don’t understand it’s an average over time. Carey wants to bring the Board all the information they can to feel better about the process. Stephanie stated Mike liked the regional approach for its buying power. There has to be a cost savings, the green component is great but the savings is going to be the deciding factor. Stephanie presumes the cost of electricity is going to go up so it might be a good time to lock into a long term. Marc stated most contracts save money, the summer prices do go up with air conditioning and pools etc. Marc stated there is always an opt in/opt out policy. People can opt out every other month. Carey stated most people probably won’t even pay attention to it. Larry asked if they can offer the rate payers in town rate options. Marc stated yes and it varies from rock bottom rate to 100 percent non fossil fuels.

Stephanie asked if she were a Boston resident in the program, and wanted to have 100% renewable energy supply, to opt in would she be paying $0.147 for the contract term? Marc said that you can change it at anytime in the future. Stephanie asked what is the benefit of going in with other towns. Marc stated energy is a commodity; if I buy one ounce of gold or 100 ounces of gold it’s going to be the same price. Knowing when to go in at the best price is the real benefit. Denise sent over some info including the opt- out notice that has a chart in it. Carey asked what the next steps are. Denise stated the town meeting vote holds so the board would have to sign a consultant agreement, she would need to tweak some of the PDF documents slightly and then they would have to post it for public review for three weeks. If the Board votes to approve, then they would send it to the DOR for legal review and wait for a DPU ruling which can take 12-18 months. Stephanie stated they should write up a short summary of how the rate/pricing works, the pros/cons and then they can decide if they want to sign it. Marc stated is happy to present to the board at anytime if needed. Marc stated there is no down side to signing the agreement as they can go out for pricing as many times as they want. Larry stated they should have a discussion with Mike and Glenn next week and figure when to get on the Board agenda. Carey stated if we want to get more people to get excited and to opt in they could push to educate people by zoom presentations or putting info on social media sites. Last time, Colonial did presentations to the public and sent out mailings etc.

**Carey and Stephanie: Discussion with Town Manager and Communications Director**

Carey stated the meeting went well. Stephanie sent the power point slides to the committee members. The only real questions they had were about aggregation which they will be able to better explain after this discussion tonight. They were also very interested in Mi-Box. Clean Sweep will probably not happen this year. They can discuss a PR campaign at the next meeting.

**Marty and Jason: scholarship language**

Carey stated we can move forward with the scholarship but they cannot use their money but can look into fundraising opportunities. Jason stated he and Marty met with Christopher Borden to discuss this. They want to create a scholarship that is in line with their mission which is to help conserve energy and sustain resources. The student should embark on something along those lines and present that to us with their results. They would have to be a senior to apply for the scholarship. Dave stated students don’t usually apply for these scholarships. It’s more likely that the instructor nominate students. Jason stated there is a Green Team at the high school that could be a liaison for us. Kristen has her contact information and will introduce Jason.

**Ongoing Discussions**

**Solid waste diversion companies**

**Black Earth, Mi-Box**

Jason will reach out to Mi-Box. They could look into doing Clean Sweep in the fall or on multiple weekends.

**Tree Bylaw**

David stated they are working on the bylaw and he will send a draft to Stephanie as soon as Bridget has the draft complete.

**MESC budget discussion**

Will discuss this more at the next meeting.

* **Report from the Chair**
* **Report from Subcommittees**
* **Housekeeping**

Approval of minutes: January 27, 2021

No meeting minutes were approved at this meeting.

* **Adjourn**

**Larry made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Jason seconded the motion and Martin, David, Kristen, Alex, and Carey all stated they were in favor and it was voted to adjourn.**

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| **Upcoming Medway Energy & Sustainability Committee Meetings**  *Meetings are typically the third Wednesday of the month*  March 17, 2021  April 21. 2021  May 19, 2021 |

**Action Items**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action Items** | **Assigned To** | **Deadline** | **Status** |
| Discuss how they should spend their budget | All members | ongoing |  |
| Discuss the possibility of sponsoring a scholarship | All members | ongoing |  |
| Dave will speak to the Charles River Waste facility about tours and speak to the middle school principal. | Dave | By the December meeting | Completed |
| Write letter of support for Volta | Carey | By the November meeting | completed |
| Compile a list of trash diversion companies | Kristen | By the November meeting |  |
| Stephanie will add Volta to the next meeting agenda. Special meeting might be need | Stephanie | October 21, 2020 completed | Completed |
| Carey will set up a meeting with Michael Boynton by the next meeting to discuss their plans. | Carey | October 21, 2020 in progress | In progress |
| Martin will set up a meeting with Carey and Kristen to work on the priorities to discuss with Michael Boynton. | Martin | October 21, 2020 in progress | In progress |
| Carey will put together a list of social media blurbs that other members can add to that Sandy can use for social media. | Carey | October 21, 2020 in progress | In progress |

Respectfully submitted by,

Tracy Rozak