

Hull Clean Energy Climate Action Committee
January 17, 2024
Meeting Minutes
(in person meeting)

Attendees

Brianna Bennett, Eva Das, Bruce Edgren, J.D. Kaplan, Rick Mattila, Leslie Taylor, Jake Vallaincourt, Judeth Van Hamm, Steve Wenner, Kathleen Wolf, Lucinda Wykle-Rosenberg

Agenda

- 2024 Kickoff
- Discussion of appointed committee members, roles, etc.
- Committee Reorganization
- Review/approval: minutes of last meetings
- Review and discussion of 2024 annual report and incorporating Brianna Bennett's report into Hull's 2024 report
- Hull2030.com updates, including revamp to silo climate action and clean energy
- Hull Times monthly article updates
- Update on scheduling the first joint meetings with Hull's Select Board & Light Board
- New business
- Old business
- Schedule next CECAC meeting

Reorganization

Jake would like to step down as Chair due to travel/work. J.D. expressed interest in serving.
J.D. Kaplan was voted in as new Chair
Rick will continue as Vice Chair

We agreed to rotate taking minutes among committee members as Lucinda would like to step back as she has been doing it for several years; she will continue as secretary/clerk and submit the approved minutes to town clerk. J.D. said AI or ChatGPT can capture what is said for minutes, but it would need to be edited and it costs money. Brianna suggested Otter.ai.

Minutes

Need to approve Oct. 23 and Nov. 13 minutes.
Approved without changes.

2024 Annual Report

Incorporate Brianna's report. Will post her final report on Hull2030.com. She will send out to whole email list.
Lucinda asked about updating Power Point of Annual Report

Discussion

Hull is still in the peaker plant deal with Peabody. It runs on diesel. Hull owns small percentage but hinders reaching our goal. Jake opposed but Light Plant refused to take a vote on it. We need wind (offshore is 850 feet—GE; below height limitation; Hingham interested in co-investing 9 or 10 months ago but Hull Light has not taken any action yet). Hull received over \$1 million grant to research offshore wind around 2010. GE could do one, but not sure about two. Smaller turbines have higher energy costs than larger ones (economies of scale). Need to demonstrate it is profitable. Grant money J.D. found that could help with 10-60% of project. One turbine alone could be profitable (10 year payback). Eight year payback for two. If federal money, then payback could be shorter.

Brianna- MAPC Technical Assistance grant could this get the ball rolling?

Modeling was done for smaller turbines (Jake)

Rate payers could be encouraged (\$) to put solar on roofs and batteries for peak load shaving. Vermont does this. Create a fund via small fee on Hull electric bill. You can own the solar but HMLP would give check to pay for it like a loan and pay monthly via bill. Billing software will support this idea in terms of managing it.

HMLP does care about looking like falling behind if both wind turbines go out of service.

Steve- Climate Leader Community program (DOE program) is an add-on to Green Communities. For Hull to become a Green Community, we must have a climate action committee (we do), we need a roadmap for a zero emission municipal plan (Brianna has completed work on this). Hull has to adopt Stretch Code to qualify. The town has to agree to convert its municipal fleet to EVs. Cohasset got hundreds of thousands because they got in early. Hull needs to become a Green Community. HMLP voted it down twice. There is a small surcharge on bill so that is obstacle. There is a temporary surcharge on our bills for diesel generators.

Could have Town Warrant and have a town vote on joining Green Communities and Stretch Code. Hingham is voting on Stretch Code next year. Could be a great joint campaign. This could be one of our recommendations to the town. Jake thinks it will go to the Advisory Board. Building Dept. may be resistant to this. 95% of MA has adopted. Several MLPs have adopted. [check MCAN but sounds like it is in turmoil]

Airloom wind energy emerging tech (radial or vertical axis - different kind of blades) - smaller

Hull Times article updates:

Wind turbine replacement (include joint Hingham MLP meeting)

Becoming a Green Community – why we should do this (LWR with Steve Wenner)

Hull Website

J.D. offered to help revamp

Scheduling Meetings

- Joint meeting with HMLP in summer 2024
- Select Board (Jake to email Irwin; have been trying to schedule since Aug.; approach Jen?) as we want to meet with them before town meeting
- CECAC meeting will be Feb. 21 at 7 pm via Zoom

Action

Jake will send out our prior annual reports to everyone

LWR update Power Point of annual report?

Brianna will send out her final report to the group

Jake/J.D. to reach out to Irwin and Jen to set up joint meeting with the town Select Board

Jake to help schedule a joint meeting with HMLP for early summer

Draft articles (2) for Hull Times (J.D. and LWR w/ Steve)

Annual Report

Jake will ask Lori West for Zoom account for our committee

Next Meeting

Next CECAC meeting will be Feb. 21 at 7 pm via Zoom