

Gloucester Democratic City Committee  
Monthly Meeting  
April 8th, 2021  
Via Zoom

49 attendees zoomed in including Matt Murray, Deanna Fay, Dru Tarr, Dan Epstein and Mike Wheeler.

Matt Murray, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30.

New or reconfirmed GDCC members: Diane Wood, Tom and Kathleen Ostrowski and Linda Brayton. All from Ward 4. Joseph George from Ward 1. Welcome.

March Meeting Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report (Lacey Cominskey):

Checking:

Deposits - \$ 124.84; Debits \$ 8.77

Total checking – 3,924.74

Savings -

Interest - \$ 0.04

Total savings - \$ 5,030.16

Grand Total - \$ 8,954.90

Annual dues discussion. Best option: \$ 10 per month via Act Blue. First payment (10) attributed to dues senior; plus second, standard dues (15).

Matt - principal expense - storage unit; 110 per month.

Public Service Report, Dan and Mary: March clean up at Burnham's field. 14 yellow bags collected. Second clean up near train station, coming up.

Scholarships: Mike Wheeler – 9 applications received by this date, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Liz Neumeier question - school destinations assumed with scholarship awards? Mike Wheeler- the main concern is to grant awards to those students who have done significant public service in their student years. Would that include students with trade/tech schools as destinations? Mike. Yes.

Secretary position election. Liz Murray is voted in as GDCC Secretary. [ ECM retaining Ward 4 Chair position somewhat concerned with demands of the two roles although I have been doing both for the past year. Keep on keeping on.]

DEI – Diversity position. Send Matt notice of interest in the position. Same, fundraising committee positions, same.

## Climate Change Discussions

Christine Downing of Rockport came forward to let us know that Rockport Dems are forming a Rockport Climate Change Action Group that will prompt and/or follow climate change actions at the local level. Look at town budgets other community committees working on this topic. Elizabeth Moulton spoke. She will look at activities at the State House, Manchester and Ipswich. Bring this information together; contact, [rockportdems.org](http://rockportdems.org). Opportunity to coalesce and focus energy, knowledge on climate change actions.

Guest speakers: Jim Mulloy and Marcia Hart, members of the Cape Ann Climate Change Coalition. Bios in meeting Chat. The CA Coalition was established in 2019 to find ways to adopt and adjust to the CC reality now and going forward. Valerie Nelson wrote their grant, one of only four approved across the country. Projects: Town Green 2025; VPE (Visual Policy Education – track legislation).

Jim Mulloy on Mass 350 legislation. Significant since we are in an existential crisis, one we need to take seriously.

350 is a Roadmap Bill which sets up a framework. Getting to our goals, we need legislation and regulations.

350 includes 17 nodes across the state. Monthly contact. Lobbying, outreach to promote a general understanding of the problem. Jim: it took four years to get this far.

350 – CO2 reduction. Goal 350 parts per.....; April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 420. Every 5 years, review levels. Big emitters are buildings and transportation.

350 – Environmental justice is part of the bill. Codifies Gov.Patrick's Executive Order.

[Mulloy used slides in his presentation; did we get a copy? Can we get a copy now? His Framework statements point to specific pieces that we can follow over time. ECM note.]

Marcia Hart, also from CA Coalition on Climate Change.

Buildings, heating are sources of 30% of green house gasses in MA. Need to build thoughtfully, retrofit where indicated.

Roadmap to achieve zero percent in the future includes:

Doubling offshore wind production; geothermal sources; DPU mission change, reliable electricity production and reducing emissions (e.g. thru Mass Save). [ Incomplete list; check slides if we have them.]

Gas Safety has become better since Merrimack Valley gas explosions in 2018. (ck year). Cf. California standards.

Additional remarks and responses to questions raised by zoomees:

Food access, housing and transportation are the biggest carbon producers here. New methods in construction; retrofitting are called for. 2015 Salem – put pressure on electeds on construction.

Concern: Chase Bank invests 70 billion a year in fossil fuels.

**CA Coalition – Contact information in the Chat; also, next meeting at the end of May.**

**Other groups mentioned with similar concerns:** Candace Wheeler on renewables, Gloucester Energy Comsn; Susan Hague (sp), school buses; Christine Downing Rockport Dems, keep track of a wide range of local initiatives in Rockport and other regional towns; Climate Arts group; Karen Bell/Dick Prouty, legislation group. HEET and Mothers Out Front – educational materials.

Discussion continued in Q and A session.

What about impact on construction laws/regs as a result of this statute? Dru Tarr – nothing specific as of this time.

Comment – some money available for reduced use of propane. No specifics given.

Net Zero – term most contested in the climate change legislation. Final agreement not indicated.

Marcia – there is a provision in other legislation for use of heat pumps. Not yet resolved. Pros, cons, expenses of heat pumps discussed briefly.

Marcia – the 2020 goal for reduction in emissions was 25% (MA, US – not stated). But did not make the goal. 50% goal by 2030. A huge lift!!!

Marcia – Gov. Baker wants more “balance” in the legislation but this could cost more later.

Personal investment, house choices: heat pumps, electric vehicles.

Additives to oil, e.g. Scott Oil. Dave Marro – ethanol additives not successful. Equipment out there to allow conversion to other fuels?

Taking out methane. Suggestion – using a particular kind of sea weed (not identified). Ref. Neptune Harvest.

Ann Rhineland – in Western MA – wetlands seen as part of carbon sequestration.

[ The discussion in the q and a period was wide-ranging but seemed valuable to save for the nuggets produced.

Matt – wrap up; information in CHAT, File.... Save the Chat.

Meeting adjourned, 8:59.