



**Citizens for
Lexington
Conservation**

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Eileen Entin, Chair

February, 2016

Kate Fricker, Editor

CANDIDATES' FORUM ISSUE

Dr. Sam Telford, Expert on Ticks, to speak at CLC's Annual Meeting

We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00 pm. Our featured speaker will be Dr. Sam Telford, Professor of Infectious Disease and Global Health at Tufts University, who is a renowned expert on ticks. Dr. Telford is a leading researcher on vector-borne infections specializing in tick-borne infections, and has broadened his work to include mosquito-borne pathogens. He has published over 200 peer reviewed publications on the ecology and epidemiology of vector-borne diseases. Prof Telford is strongly committed to public health in this sphere. In his talk, he will explain the life cycle of ticks, when and where they appear, and why they seem to be on the increase. He will explain how you can avoid getting bitten by ticks, and what to do if one does bite you.

Our annual meeting will be held in the large lecture room at Cary Memorial Library. Refreshments will be served. Please join us to hear about CLC's upcoming activities and to learn from our knowledgeable speaker.



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CLC 2016 Candidate Question, sent to all candidates:

CLC has chosen to focus this year's candidate question on a warrant article related to reducing our community's greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on climate change. This warrant article would have the Town fund technical consultants to provide subject matter advice and analysis to a Getting to Net Zero Task Force in support of developing a 25 to 35 year Net Zero Emissions Plan for the Town.

This warrant article is being proposed by the Sustainability Committee and will be submitted to Town Meeting on behalf of the Sustainability Committee by the Board of Selectmen. It will ask Town Meeting to vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money necessary to hire consultants to provide advice and analysis to a Getting to Net Zero Task Force and Town staff.

The questions to all candidates for elective office are: what position will you be taking on this warrant article and what is the justification for your position.

Description

Lexington's buildings are currently responsible for 66% of Lexington's greenhouse gas emissions. The Getting to Net Zero Task Force will explore the possibility of reducing residential, commercial and municipal building emissions to net zero over the next 25 to 35 years. The task force will be composed of a broad range of stakeholders including local business owners, commercial and residential property owners, subject matter experts, Town staff, and appropriate Town committee members.

The task force, with the assistance of consultants who have developed successful net zero plans in other communities, will develop strategies, plans and recommendations to achieve an annual balance of zero greenhouse gas emissions from residential, commercial and municipal building operations for approval by the Town, with a focus on:

- Reporting current greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment,
- Reducing energy use in new and existing buildings,
- Producing renewable energy generation, both on and off-site, and
- Purchasing renewable energy

(Additional information was available at the CLC web site and can be viewed at clclex.org)

2016 CLC dues are payable now.

The status of your dues payment can be found on the address label of snail-mailed newsletters, or near the top of the e-mail announcing this issue.

Suggested membership levels:

- ___ \$20 (Twig)
- ___ \$50 (Branch)
- ___ \$100 (Tree)
- ___ \$ (Other)

Mail to: CLC Inc., P.O.Box 292
Lexington, MA 02420-0003,
or use paypal at clclex.org.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL _____

___New Member ___Renewal

_____Go Green. Check here if you would like to have your newsletter in color with live links, using a download link from an email, instead of the snail mail version.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICE

Candidate for Selectman

Joseph Pato

(781) 325-8631 joe@joepato.org

Getting to Net Zero - or beyond - is a critical goal to make Lexington a sustainable community. Cambridge has provided an excellent model for how to create a community-wide plan for achieving a net zero action plan and Lexington can do so as well.

During my tenure on the Board of Selectmen I have been an active contributor to the Sustainable Lexington Committee as the Board's Liaison. As a result of the committee's tireless work Lexington has begun to take steps to reduce our environmental impact and become more sustainable. We have installed over 1 MW of solar panels on the rooftops of several schools and on the Cary Memorial Library building (with great care that the panels are not visible from the public way in the Historic District). We are also in the process of creating an over 2 MW ground mount and canopy

mounted solar array at the Hartwell Avenue composting facility - generating power and making the existing composting facility more efficient.

I am also pleased that we have been following an Integrated Design Process for our new school building projects. This process introduces analysis of environmental and health questions earlier in building design. This should lead to healthier, more efficient, and sustainable buildings. We are and should be pursuing new and renovated facilities that are designed to minimize our environmental footprint and built to last. I support moving forward with a Getting to Net Zero task force and look forward to seeing the budget request associated with this project at Town Meeting to decide how much we can begin this year.

Candidate for Moderator

Deborah Brown

Campbrown@gmail.com

As Town Moderator, I do not traditionally take positions or vote on issues before Town Meeting. I believe I can be most effective and trusted to be fair to all if I maintain my impartiality on all matters

before the Meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all interested citizens to attend Town Meeting. Only elected members may vote, but anyone may attend the meetings and ask to address the meeting. Please call me or email if you would like to speak on a topic at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. I will be happy to explain our procedures and walk you through what to expect.

Candidates for School Committee

Alessandro Alessandrini
781-861-8207 alessandrini@comcast.net

Getting to Net Zero is a goal that I support both as a resident of Lexington and as a School Committee member. Climate change will have a negative impact on all of us so we need to continue to explore and plan for the future. As one of the elected officials charged with overseeing the ten buildings controlled by the Lexington Public Schools, I am committed to reducing their energy consumption and lowering their carbon footprint. We will have an opportunity to continue pursuing this goal as we plan a new Hastings Elementary School. By committing to Net Zero we can begin the process. I will be supporting this warrant article.

Claire Sheth
617-596-4356
Clairebsheth@yahoo.com

First and foremost, I want to thank the Citizens for Lexington Conservation for so proactively ensuring the preservation of Lexington's open spaces and driving community education, engagement and discourse regarding the environment.

The question being put to the candidates is particularly timely from the standpoint of a candidate running for School Committee in light of the many school capital projects we are contemplating as a community. I am a staunch advocate for needing more space and an enthusiastic supporter of those spaces being environmentally conscious and sustainable.

Securing the requested funds in the warrant article now will make it possible for us to engage these consultants while we are still in the design face of our capital projects, and make it possible for us to avoid likely costly retroactive measures toward the aim of diminished emissions. Therefore, I will be supporting this article and voting yes.

Our students are incredibly lucky to attend schools as thoughtfully designed as they are, but with that good fortune comes responsibility and I think imbedding sustainability in the design of our schools is an important opportunity to test Lexington's commitment to the environment-- a test I'd very much like to see us pass.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING

Precinct 1

Jonathan Cole
781-861-8326 colebiz@rcn.com

Although I will keep an open mind during the article debate, I am pleased to see this proposal. Studying current emissions is helpful. The town has a history of useful Task Force studies. The 25 to 35 year timeframe makes it difficult to

estimate technological changes, but we should start soon.

Janet Kern

janet@machillfarm.org

I will be supporting this article and will be encouraging my fellow Town Meeting Members to do the same.

As Town Meeting Members are asked in 2016 to consider tens of million dollars to build, re-build, and expand our school buildings over the next twenty years so that the next generation of Lexingtonians can benefit from our world-class school system, we must also at the same time-consider how we might prepare for the reality of climate change.

This reality will challenge Lexington's resiliency for this same generation for whom we are providing high-quality classroom education.

Let us demonstrate what an educated community can accomplish beyond the classroom - with forward thinking and thoughtful planning. We have a great opportunity to benefit from local expertise from the Net Zero initiative in Cambridge and we can apply the same concepts of investing stakeholders in producing good policy and provide a Net Zero solution that works for Lexington homeowners, business owners and town government buildings alike.

Precinct 2

Laurel Carpenter

Laurel.Carpenter@LexingtonTMMA.org
781-862-4027

At the 2013 Annual Town Meeting, citizens voted to support a climate change resolution to ask the Town to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate and to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions. Energy associated with building use is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Lexington. Reducing energy use in new and existing buildings and purchasing renewable energy are among the ways that Lexington can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. I support Article 16 which asks for funding for technical consultants who will provide advice and analysis to a Getting to Net Zero Task Force comprised of a broad range of stakeholders.

Ricki Pappo

Ricki.pappo@gmail.com

I am a strong supporter of the "Getting to Net Zero" warrant article and plan to work to get this passed. There is no longer a debate regarding climate change and that people have caused the dramatic increase in carbon and methane gases that are causing the planet's warming and extreme weather events. In Lexington, 66% of all our carbon emissions come from our buildings. This article is written to work with the buildings owners to bring down their emissions to "0." This can be done using various methods such as improving insulation, alternative energy options, buying green energy, carbon offsets, and a myriad of options that work for particular buildings. The first step is in data gathering of our emissions. The program would be phased in with full compliance in 25-35 years. Presently, there is work to set up a Getting to Net Zero Task Force made up of Lexington stakeholders. The warrant article is for the funds to hire an experienced consultant to work with the task force to map out a plan for how Lexington can get to Net Zero carbon emissions from buildings. This warrant article is in keeping with Town meeting's passing many articles that relate to climate

change. This is the next step. We are not alone in plans for “Getting to Net Zero.” Cambridge has adopted a plan as have other communities in the country. Many of our neighboring towns are in the process of adopting such a plan for their community. While there is now a global commitment to reducing carbon (see below for some of the Paris agreements) and there is a strong movement to begin taxing carbon (businesses are already factoring in such a tax in their business plans), a community has the best chance of attaining carbon reduction goals within the confines of what local government can do. Let’s vote to pass this article and have Lexington join the effort to dramatically reduce carbon emissions and be a leader in the mitigation of climate change effects. The warrant article is a significant step in showing that Lexington is committed to taking on the challenge of reducing the long-term effects of climate change. Let’s do it for us, our children, their children, and the health of our planet.

Betsey Weiss

781-863-5602 weiss.betsey@gmail.com

The Town Should Follow LexHAB’s Lead on Net- Zero Energy Policy

LexHAB’s new construction projects are intended to create net –zero energy buildings. LexHAB recognizes that although the initial project costs are higher than standard construction costs, there will be savings in the heating and cooling costs over the lifetime of the buildings. In addition, there are will be benefits to the occupants’ comfort and to the environment due to reduced carbon emissions. LexHAB has begun construction of three net-zero energy

housing units on Fairview Avenue. The intention is to build six housing units on the Busa site using net- zero energy construction practices.

I think the Town of Lexington should follow LexHAB’s lead on net-zero energy policy for new construction, but I feel that a net – zero energy policy for existing buildings should be voluntary. I do not think that homeowners or the Town, who also own and maintain many existing structures, should be required to retrofit their properties because the costs for the rehabilitation are, at this time, unclear. Retrofitting existing properties should be voluntary.

I support a resident’s voluntary effort to reduce fossil fuel energy use for existing structures and the resultant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, but not a net-zero energy policy for existing structures. In addition, I support production of renewable energy generation both on and off-site and voluntary purchasing of renewable energy sources (carbon offsets) to balance a homeowner’s carbon emissions.

Lastly, I think that Town Meeting Members should have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the consulting fee request which is approximately \$100,000-\$150,000 for the “Getting to Net- Zero Task Force”.

Precinct 3

Nancy Hubert

781-861-0798 nanhub@aol.com

I will be voting in favor of the warrant article proposed by the Sustainability Committee asking to appropriate money needed to hire consultants. My reasons include: 1. This is an issue which must be faced sooner or later, we can get a

good start on it with careful planning; 2. A task force and consultants will be able to identify possible savings for now and should be able to identify priorities and possibilities so that we can be working on the issues as soon as possible; 3. comprehensive planning should help town administrators and town meeting members see where we are going and what needs to be done when.

Jeanne Krieger

781 862-7730 jkkrieger@gmail.com

I would need to know the motion, before I can take a position.

I would encourage the Selectmen to amend the charge of the Sustainability Committee to include the focus of net zero planning, thereby insuring a consistent, integrated approach to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Without more information I cannot support an appropriation for consulting or additional staff.

Glenn Parker

As Chair of the Appropriation Committee, I don't usually comment on my personal stance regarding appropriation requests in order to maintain a neutral position while the AC debates such requests. However, I have a few observations regarding the content of the letter itself, and I suggest that the Sustainability Committee be prepared to respond to these comments when their article is debated in TM.

First, the CLC has asked for candidate positions on an appropriation without discussing anything about the anticipated magnitude of the request. I do not think this is a fair question for anyone who is

expected to represent the interests of the town, regardless of one's opinion about the ultimate goals of the proposed Task Force. At a minimum, we need to know how long this task force will run and what level of consulting services it will require to be effective.

Second, the letter asserts that "Lexington's buildings are currently responsible for 66% of Lexington's greenhouse gas emissions.", but it provides no citations or meaningful context for this claim. There is no discussion of the other 34%, so I can only wonder: 66% of what? Is this number only referring to buildings owned by Lexington, or is it the sum of all municipal, residential and commercial emissions? Likewise, which emissions resulting from transportation are included in the total? Regardless of the way the emissions are added up, how does Lexington compare to similar communities?

It is critical to define the scope of the proposed task force, since the ability of the Town to impose and/or incentivize restrictions on emissions varies greatly depending on who owns the buildings in question.

Finally, I would greatly appreciate some discussion about what would happen without this task force, since I believe the Town already has a mandate to consider environmental factors in all its operations. Do we need a task force to achieve something that could be done without it?

Precinct 4

Anoop Garg

781-863-6416 gargaka@hotmail.com

Without details on the warrant article, it is difficult to provide a complete position. In principle, I would support a Net Zero Task Force that is goaled to explore the possibility of reducing emissions to net zero over 25-35 years. However, I would want to ensure that any funding to external consultants is tied to deliverables that are very specific to the Lexington Infrastructure and thoroughly leverage existing information from already developed net zero plans from other communities. Available plans should be shared with the Sustainability Committee beforehand to enable them to better define specificity of deliverables from consultants.

Thomas Griffiths

tomg@egh.com

When I was on the Town's Energy Committee, the Committee supported and audited efforts by the Town to reduce energy consumption by Town buildings overall by targeted amounts each year. Through no lack of effort on the Town's part, the goals proved unachievable. Moreover, it was hard to isolate the places where trouble lay, because there were often global seasonal variations and/or off-the-chart issues associated with particular buildings. Similarly, when I was on School Committee, several of our energy-saving schemes died aborning, because engineering detail prevented full implementation.

Against that backdrop and recognizing the complexity of achieving the net-zero goals, I will support the warrant article, in part because measuring success against

effort is understood to be an essential part of the program, in part because the Sustainability Committee comprises dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers, who've worked to lay the foundation for the proposed effort.

Susan McLeish

781-862-6737

Susan.mcleish@lexingtonmma.org

I am inclined to support an appropriation for advice and analysis re Getting to Net Zero. Climate change is a real problem that must be addressed and I support taking reasonable steps to put a plan in place for our community. The proposed subject matter needs to be explored, but in order to take a firm position on the Article, I would want to see the motion that will be put forward as well as understand the amount of funds requested.

I am supportive of environmental responsibility. As examples of my commitment, I voted yes on the Climate Change Resolution for the development of a Town Climate Action Plan in 2013, voted for the adoption of the Stretch Code and the solar panels on public buildings.

Gerald Paul

gerry@bu.edu

I wholeheartedly support the CLC warrant article.

I know first hand the benefits of reducing energy use in new and existing buildings. Over the last 10 years we have reduced the energy costs for our home by at least 50% with additional insulation and a modern energy efficient heating/hot water system.

In addition to reducing greenhouse gases, the cost of this article will be more

than offset by the saving in energy costs by the citizens of Lexington.

Sandra Shaw

781-862-4415 sj.shaw@verizon.net

I plan to support the warrant article being proposed by the Sustainability Committee. We are very fortunate to have active and knowledgeable citizens who are addressing the various crucial environmental issues which face us today. Such issues as reporting current greenhouse emissions, reducing energy use, and producing and purchasing renewable energy will great determine how we will live in the 21st century, and beyond. It therefore seems appropriate for Town Meeting to support the appropriation of necessary funds for professional advice and analysis to a Getting to Net Zero Task Force and Town staff

Precinct 5

Anil Ahuja

(h)781-652-0555 Anil_ahuja@yahoo.com

I fully support the initiative to move the Town of Lexington towards Net Zero emissions!

I understand the impact that global warming has on our planet as I have seen first-hand the increase in sea levels from the country I have migrated from. I want this world to be a better place for our children to live in. Having said that, I also understand that this is a relatively expensive endeavor. I will support the vote to raise funds to perform a study by consultants to get towards Net Zero emissions. But it will be my responsibility to ensure that Taxpayer monies will be spent towards the betterment of the town in a judicious manner.

Marilyn Fenollosa

Mmt.fenollosa@verizon.net

Achieving net zero energy -- reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improved energy efficiency, use of alternatives to carbon consumption and other methods -- is a difficult but critical goal if we are to ensure the viability of our neighborhoods, our town, and, indeed, the country and the planet. I believe that Lexingtonians already strive to meet this standard, through the increased use of solar panels , changing light bulbs to more efficient models and turning them off when not needed, restricting water usage, keeping the thermostats set to lower levels, appropriately insulating their homes, and like techniques. Builders of new residential and commercial structures here strive, I believe, to exceed existing energy code requirements. The proposed resolution will take us beyond these basic measures: by using experts in the field we can expand the scope of our efforts by identifying and implementing approved design and construction methods, opportunities to retrofit our existing building stock for improved energy, and education of our residents and businesses on appropriate energy-saving techniques. The proponents of the resolution should be encouraged to seek grant funding for these studies as a first course of action, but if unsuccessful, the town should provide a small stipend -- recognizing current budgetary constraints and the demands of our schools-- to promote these efforts.

Ginna Johnson

gjohnson@eskercompany.com

781-454-7044

Assuming the funds requested (currently unknown) align with standards for consulting work, I

support Article 16: Appropriate for Advice and Analysis - Getting to Net Zero. Since the Battle on the Green, the Town of Lexington has been at the forefront of issues transforming American society. By acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption, we can again be proactive, inspiring other communities to address climate change as we reduce Town expenses, become less dependent on and therefore more immune to fluctuation of global energy markets, and finally, bequeath to our children a cleaner and more habitable planet.

2016 Town Meeting will be asked to vote on several other articles which could also help address climate change on a local level, and on a much faster timetable than the 25 to 35 years projected for Net Zero policy: Article 29: Neighborhood Conservation Districts (NCD): This is a general bylaw that would enable the voluntary formation of NCDs by residents. For each NCD, residents would determine the characteristics of their neighborhood worthy of preservation, including tree preservation (see below).

Articles 32-33: Tree Bylaw Amendments: To preserve and restore our Town tree canopy, the first amendment would encourage owners and developers who remove trees during construction to replant native canopy trees (as opposed to just paying into the mitigation fund). The second amendment would prevent the removal of "Significant Trees" — defined as trees 30" diameter and above in the property setbacks—during major construction. The environmental benefits of these huge trees are extraordinary as they

sequester carbon, clean air, slow and purify stormwater runoff and cool homes and streets in season.

Article 41: Gross Floor Area (GFA): The median single family house size in Lexington is growing and houses as large as 13,000 SF—even 15,000 SF—have increased energy consumption for lighting and air conditioning. By establishing maximum house size in relation to lot size, Article 41 will help reduce the overall energy consumption of new construction. Smaller house footprints may also preserve trees (never regulated in the interior of lots) and open space.

I support these articles and encourage other residents concerned about our environment to ask their Town Meeting members to support them as well!

Richard L. Neumeier

781-861-7925

rneumeier@morrisonmahoney.com

As a candidate for town meeting in precinct 5, I support the warrant article proposed by the Sustainability Committee to ask Town Meeting to appropriate money to hire consultants to provide advice and analysis to a Getting to Net Zero Task Force and Town staff. I recognize that there are other priorities in the operating budget (especially the schools), however, in the long run this request must be given a high priority.

Precinct 6

Deborah Strod

781-862-7910

debstrod4-townmeeting@yahoo.com

I support this article. We must take action to curb human environmental impact and support ecological sustainability on the planet, with immediate near term and sustained, cumulative effect. This article can support a collaborative approach which I think is necessary; it also can support centralized information sources and technical assistance, simplified for people to adapt for their own circumstances. Compared to much other spending the Town anticipates, this is a small investment with the potential for payoff in shared information and action across the community.

There may be fear or resentment among individuals or businesses that such efforts will entail onerous requirements with no support, and with little real impact on a global problem. This can be mitigated by a transparent process acknowledging that just as there are different environmental strengths across the country that lend themselves to different approaches, in Lexington we also have varying micro-environments, and people have individual circumstances, which also lend themselves to different approaches. A person living alone with mobility or visual limitations might need different adaptations to be able to compost or recycle than a family with no limitations. A tree-shaded home might not be able to put up solar panels, but might have another way to save water or use less energy. A large new house might be more energy efficient than a neighboring older home, and able to share solar power with a neighborhood. Rather framing the effort as an absolute goal to be met by each individual structure, it seems to me important to take a comprehensive view of the goal: to get to Net Zero as a community, encouraging people to adapt and take steps they can, and together taking the larger steps.

I would like to learn more:

- about the definition of “successful” in the consultants’ other projects. Measuring impact, which the article anticipates, will be important and I would like to know current measures and how Lexington measures will be developed and chosen.
- about the relative costs of conventional construction versus Net Zero-aware construction, both in initial outlays and long term costs of maintenance and use, and how that might impact Lexington’s anticipated new municipal construction and renovation projects.
- about how we can help individuals to make a variety of decisions which impact their lives and the town’s Net Zero goals, while not infringing on their rights to make those decisions. In the long run, rights defined by The Constitution may matter little if the actions of those who are “free” lead to widescale death and destruction through ecological collapse; yet if the public perceives rights being taken away without support for their actions and good results, we might not get the cultural shift and buy-in needed for collective action.
- about how the task force will work, how often and to whom it will report, how long it is anticipated to last, and other implementation details (some of which may be yet to be determined).

Andrea Fribush
afribush@gmail.com

I support asking Town Meeting to fund the hiring of consultants to advise a Getting to Net Zero Task force. I was glad to attend the GWAC meeting at the library on 1/28, where the rationale for this was presented and discussed. I support all efforts to slow global warming. Our family has benefited from installing solar panels and reinsulating our house. A town-wide effort to educate all of us, and to make it simpler for all to participate in and support Getting to Net Zero, should be the next step. Fortunately, many Lexingtonians are aware of the importance of this issue. I am proud to live in a town that has a GWAC, a CLC, and a

Sustainability Committee. As a parent of a former LHS GWAC president, I was glad to see high school students at the meeting.

Mark Andersen
markandersen@alum.mit.edu

Sustainability is among the most important goals I have in running for town meeting, using this term to encompass fiscal stability, safe and stable school environments, durable neighborhoods, and the economic use of natural resources. I look forward to listening to the request for financial resources for "Getting to Net Zero", and my support would be contingent on (a) Ensuring that contracting these resources will translate into an effect on Lexington policies (are we prepared to act now?), and (b) the consensus that volunteers are unsuitable or unavailable for this initiative. As town meeting members, we must be economic stewards, and support the long term while being mindful of our finite financial resources. I value reducing Lexington's

greenhouse gas emissions, and see emissions reduction among the constellation of investments for the future of Lexington.

Precinct 7

Mary Burnell
macburnell@gmail.com

I look forward to learning more about the warrant article being proposed by the Citizens for Lexington Conservation related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Lexington at the Town Meeting information sessions. In principle I would support such as article.

George Burnell,
781-862-2023, gaburnell@gmail.com

I have great respect for the Sustainable Lexington Committee and their Chairman Mark Sandeen and consequently give serious consideration to their request for some consulting assistance in formalizing a Getting to Net Zero program. My advice in this regard is to form the Task Force, review the material of other communities, the information to be obtained in Lexington and the skill set of our volunteers before framing a request for professional assistance. We have significant talent locally who should participate in determining the nature of the assistance that may be required. That makes it difficult at this time to know just how much funding is called for. But a Getting to Net Zero program will be a valuable road map for us to pursue and an important goal.

Mary Hamilton
781-861-3939 marychamilton@gmail.com

I am certainly in favor of the goals of a Net Zero Emissions Plan. I would have to

see the presentation at Town Meeting before taking a position on the entire plan. However, the warrant appears to be asking simply to appropriate the necessary funds to hire consultants to provide advice and analysis for the Task Force and the Town. Unless the funds requested seem excessive, I would be very much inclined to support the warrant.

Precinct 8

Alan Mayer Levine

781-862-8127 levfam4@rcn.com

I generally favor articles that can effectively help Lexington citizens live according to sustainable principles. I voted in favor of the solar panels on Town buildings, the large array of solar panels planned for the DPW space on Hartwell Ave., and the adoption in Lexington of a higher-level building code. The Getting to Net Zero article sounds like an excellent idea, one that I should be able to strongly support. If the motion to be made under the Article is sensible and the request for funds to retain consultants to the task force is reasonable, I will be happy to support it. There are an extraordinary number of capital requests being made for the coming year, fiscal year 2017, so managing and properly prioritizing all of proposed projects will not be simple.

Climate change due to greenhouse gases from use of fossil fuels, destruction of forests, etc. is an unfortunate reality that may change our world in many highly undesirable and even destructive ways. Consider, for example, the astronomical expense of moving low-lying coastal cities such as Boston to higher sites. Sooner or later something will need to be done; now is better than later. If we can play a role, even if small, in addressing the problem

we owe it to our children and grandchildren to do our part.

Melinda Walker

781-863-2024 melinda.walker@rcn.com

While I do certainly applaud the efforts of citizens working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, I must admit I am, at the time of this writing, uncertain as to how I will vote on this article.

What concerns me about this proposal is what mandates will be made on homeowners and the town in terms of modifications to existing structures. I am going to describe an experience my family had with respect to a government mandate that placed an unfair burden on condo owners living in affordable units at Muzzey High. It was clear, following the publication of the results of an engineering study, that the windows at Muzzey High were in very poor condition and were, among other things, leaking energy. The trustees of the condominium embarked on a building-wide project to replace the windows with new energy-efficient windows. Since Muzzey High is located within the Lexington Historic District, it was mandated that the new windows had to "look like" the original windows built in the early 20th century. This increased the cost of the replacement windows and, unfortunately, the condominium owners were responsible for the entire cost of the renovation. I understood the sentiment for preserving the architectural integrity of the streetscape, but I felt this was an unfair burden for the owners of affordable housing units, many of whom live (or lived, as in the case of my mom) on fixed incomes.

What I would hope would be that if the town embarks on a plan to reduce

building emissions to net-zero in the next 25 to 25 years, care will be given to equalizing the financial burden of such an enterprise. All of us should be making changes (or sacrifices) to mitigate the effects of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, but I do not think lower-income individuals should be asked to make a larger financial sacrifice for the greater good.

Andrei Radulescu-Banu
617-216-8509

I am pretty excited to hear of the initiative to organize a Getting to Net Zero Task Force. Lexington can truly be a leader and show the way forward in how to become truly sustainable. And I would hope transportation is included in the scope of the task force.

From your pamphlet description, I read that the Net Zero Task Force will deal with practical matters of sustainability where we look at ways to balance our impact on the environment. This would include issues of conservation, of producing clean energy, and of selecting judiciously the type of electric and heating energy we use.

The initiative will be successful, from my perspective, if it is repeatable in other contexts - in all suburban and ex-urban communities, whether in the US or abroad.

It will be successful already if, as a first step, it ensures full transparency in town wide emissions and generation.

Once we have a way to track our emissions, then we can consider policy decisions function of their impact on reducing these emissions - which means we can truly start to drive policy based on measured outcome.

We should also consider that large pollution cuts can be achieved as a first step if we switch many residential homes from diesel fuel heating to natural gas. We do not have to wait 35 years to start to drastically cut emissions. Also, my hope is that we will treat Lexington as a community, rather than as a collection of individual homes and businesses - and that the solutions proposed are feasible at the scale of the entire town.

Precinct 9

Margaret E. Coppe
781-862-2637 mecoppe@gmail.com

I will listen to the article proponents for this article to hear what funds are being requested, but at this time will be supporting it. Lexington has been working towards raising its energy profile and reducing its carbon footprint for the past years and this seems to be a logical extension of that work. Some of the goals of the Sustainability Committee are short-term, but some are long-term. In order to get to Net Zero, we need to begin now.

Scott Burson
781-863-8367
scottburson02421@aol.com

I support funding consultants in support of developing a Net Zero Emissions Plan for Lexington. In my 19 years as a Town Meeting Member, I have seen numerous instances where proactively analyzing and planning for energy and environmental issues has benefited the Town economically as well as mitigating the Town's overall climate impact. For instance, improving the energy efficiency of our schools has insulated us from the vagaries of the energy market while

reducing our use of carbon-based fuels. I would support this measure even if I doubted it would offer a net positive financial impact directly to residents of the Town because I think we have a larger global responsibility to lead on this sort of issue, but on this issue, I see the macro and micro issues aligned.

Hema Bhatt

781-402-0279 hpbhatt2012@gmail.com

I support every effort to reduce the impact on climate change. The initiative by CLC to study and prepare the plan for Net Zero Emission for the town is very thoughtful, environmental friendly & visionary for future generation. When implemented, it will benefit us to the great extent. There is inseparable bond between human & nature. It is our responsibility to keep the equilibrium in nature. There is an underlying order to everything in nature; it has provided sustenance for us. We need to conserve in every way possible with planning and action. This is also important for clean environment and good health of our residents.

Position Available - Walks Coordinator

CLC conducts walks on conservation and other open space lands in Lexington during three seasons: Spring, Fall, and Winter. We are in the process of identifying a volunteer to serve as Walks Coordinator. The duties would include contacting previous and potential walk leaders to arrange scheduling details three times a year as well as publicizing the walks through local media outlets and list-serves. Participation in bi-monthly board meetings, while beneficial, would not be a requirement. Contact Eileen Entin (eileenhome@gmail.com, 781-862-6418) for details.

