



Citizens for Lexington Conservation

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Kate Fricker, Editor

February, 2006

Eileen Entin, President

CANDIDATES' FORUM ISSUE

Citizens for Lexington Conservation, Inc. devotes this annual issue of its newsletter to candidates' statements in order to help you, the voter, cast your ballot effectively. All candidates for office were sent a letter soliciting their response to the following question (not all responded):

1. Do you favor the creation of a Moderator-appointed town energy committee? Please explain your reasoning as to why you feel a Moderator-appointed energy committee is or is not necessary.
2. What would be your charge to either a Town Moderator- or a Board of Selectmen-appointed energy committee? Should such an energy committee involve itself with:
 - Policy issues such as the development of energy efficiency standards and/or a commitment by the town to some measure of sustainable energy practices for municipal operations?
 - Development of a strategic plan for municipal energy efficiency and/or some measure of sustainable energy practices?
 - Involvement with operational details on specific ways that the town could become more energy efficient and/or implement sustainable energy practices?
3. To what extent should the town be willing to spend money on energy efficiency efforts and/or the development of sustainable energy practices?
 - Would you support the creation of a staff position or part of a staff position to implement the efforts entailed in such a program?
 - Should the investment in such a program be strictly limited to the payback in anticipated savings, or should the town expect to invest additional monetary resources to foster and maintain sustainable energy practices?

CLC dues (\$12 or \$15) have been increased for 2006 and are payable now.
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Mail to: CLC Inc., P. O. Box 292, Lexington, MA 02420-0003



Pesticide Action Committee

Anyone interested in joining this action group please call Diane Carr at 781-863-8972 or email her at diane.carr4@verizon.net.

Friends of Arlington's Great Meadow

The Friends of Arlington's Great Meadow have just published their 2005 Annual Report. It is available at <http://www.foagm.org/#Resources>.

CLC Publications

Guides to the conservation land of Lexington and other interesting materials are available on the CLC website:

<http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>

CLC does not endorse any candidate. Rather, we urge you to read the candidates' statements, make your own decisions, and VOTE for your candidates on Monday, March 6.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICE

Candidate for Moderator

Margery Battin

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Energy conservation, climate change and sustainable energy use are extremely important issues that deserve careful attention by the entire Lexington community.

As Moderator, however, I cannot give my opinion on how these issues should be addressed by Town Meeting. If the Moderator is to preside fairly and impartially over Town Meeting, her opinion on issues, persons or groups should not be known.

All questions facing Town Meeting deserve balanced, thoughtful consideration.

Therefore, the Moderator should make certain that the subject under debate is clear, town meeting practices and procedures are understood, and all points of view are fully explored. As Moderator I feel it is my role to protect and improve the process by which decisions are made which can affect the quality of life in Lexington. Last spring I held a meeting with town boards, committees and the TMMA to critique and refine the streamlined Town Meeting procedures that had been instituted to enable members to concentrate on the issues more quickly.

As Moderator I will continue to do everything possible to see that Town Meeting members receive the information needed to make informed choices and that citizen participants thoroughly understand Town Meeting procedures. Citizen article sponsors have been sent written instructions to aid them in preparing for Town Meeting. These citizens will be included in the Moderator's meeting with article sponsors during which we establish Town Meeting format, timing, chronology and note areas of potential disagreement. A workshop will again be held for new Town Meeting members to answer questions, explain legal issues, parliamentary procedures and land use as well as financial terms and concepts. I will be readily available for consultation and explanation of meeting procedures to all citizens and officials wishing to be heard at Town Meeting.

I will write a newspaper article to explain the protocol for citizen participation.

Candidate for Selectman

George Burnell

gaburnell@att.net

I am in favor of a strong energy committee but do not believe a moderator-appointed committee is the correct approach. Moderator-appointed committees (like Appropriation and Capital Expenditures) are advisors to Town Meeting, basically evaluating then recommending approval or disapproval of legislation being proposed to that body. That role is adequately being served by the finance committees.

The Selectmen's energy committee is currently being reinvigorated and is in the best position to instigate and implement action. I would invite the Director of Facilities for the Schools to be a participant with this committee and have every confidence that we could make such an arrangement to achieve a dynamic energy approach.

My charge to the committee would be to investigate current energy practices and usage, develop recommendations for actions that will reduce consumption, prepare policies and monitor progress. The committee should further advise on sustainable energy policy for town and school applications with implementation goals where the technology becomes cost effective.

Energy policy should have both short term and long term components. Our first priority would be to implement actions with a short payback. We proceed from there to those that are more difficult to implement and/or have a longer payback. New construction would have a more comprehensive review in order to take advantage of the latest technologies as they develop.

We have very talented volunteers with energy expertise on our committees to advise and guide this effort. Their recommendations on implementation would guide my decisions for any staffing requirements. This is a prime example of addressing our needs in partnership between our professional staff and citizen volunteers who have relevant expertise.

Candidate for Selectman

Peter Kelley

bevkellexma@aol.com

As a sitting member of the Board of Selectmen, I supported and endorsed the Energy Conservation Committee recently established by the Board. I believe this is the appropriate model to follow. To also have a moderator-appointed committee would dilute the citizen talent focusing on energy issues. As one who has been actively involved with building projects while serving on the Building Finance Committee and the Permanent Building Committee from 1995 to 2003, I put my full support behind energy efficient building designs. While designing our new elementary schools we committed to not only meeting the high standards of energy efficiency, fundable with state financing plans, we made a commitment to a geothermal energy system which has proven most successful. This state-of-the-art heating and cooling system both cools and heats the new Harrington School at minimal costs and with minimal energy consumption. My understanding is that the school has been heated this winter without even firing-off the supplemental gas boilers. This, along with other commitments to energy efficiencies, has qualified Harrington School for a Silver Standard in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program. The LEED Silver Standard is the standard the Board of Selectmen have now committed to in all future construction.

I don't see the need to create a staff position to make a strong commitment to sustainable energy efficiencies. Every dollar spent from both operational and capital budgets should be evaluated as to both its dollar and energy costs.

Candidate for School Committee

Ravi Sakhuja

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1. A Moderator-appointed committee has the advantage of being able to make a fresh start in which the flow of new ideas is less inhibited by past history and politics.

2. I suggest starting with the ideas, recommendations and proposals that are currently on the table and have the committee recommend a prioritized list based on criteria such as return on

investment, level of energy/\$\$ savings, total investment needed, time to completion, and other attendant benefits such as better climate control, improved building integrity, fixing leaks etc. Some of the top ranking ideas should be implemented with expediency to show that our intentions are backed by action and to build credibility. Demonstrable progress will create stronger backing and interest from community, stronger participation, and less cynicism. Obviously, the committee's role would be consultative in nature with respect to actual implementation and operations. Strategic plan development is also a good idea, but should take second priority and be started in parallel. Sufficient energy efficiency standards already exist.

3. We have a very competent and experienced individual in Bill Hartigan, our new school facility chief. We should support him in getting some of the most attractive/appealing projects off the ground without increasing our financial overhead costs. Bill has a staff and infrastructure already in place to manage these projects, some of which are already well along in concept development.

Candidate for Planning Board

Scott Burson

ScottBurson02421@aol.com

I support creation of a town energy committee. The committee should be advisory in nature. I see such a committee as being instrumental in analyzing how to maximize energy conservation in existing facilities and prioritizing projects, and in advising how new projects and major renovations may take best advantage of changing technologies.

Candidate for Planning Board

Richard Canale

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A single town energy committee that has a comprehensive enough charge is my preferred choice. The present charge as amended by the Selectmen in January is sufficient. There is latitude to do what needs to be done. The danger is that because it is so broad, the committee may get sidetracked and do the easiest tasks.

The committee should involve itself with policy issues, strategic plans, and operational methodologies that will lead to sustainable energy management.

The Town needs to invest money up front and should provide reasonable staff involvement in support of the committee and in translating energy policy into practice.

While initial initiatives should be in areas that have a relatively short term (up to five years) payback, projects such as the DPW facility should be designed incorporating green principles as a basic requirement. Projects that demonstrate actual measurable savings will help bring over skeptics. That way sustainable energy practices are more likely to be widely accepted as standard practice.

I would hope that an initial task of the committee would be investigating existing available tools and resources. Lexington memberships in organizations such as "ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability" should prove cost effective. Lexington can save on energy costs and at the same time help in addressing global warming pollution.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING

Precinct 1

Ann Redmon

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I favor the appointment of a town energy committee but am not sure that there needs to be one appointed by the Moderator when the Board of Selectmen has just appointed one.

In these days of skyrocketing energy costs, the town should do all it reasonably can to contain energy costs. Faced with ever-increasing evidence of global warming and the dangers it presents to the planet, we all must do our share to reduce emissions. An energy committee should involve itself in policy issues regarding sustainable energy practices for municipal operations and the development of a strategic plan for municipal energy efficiency. It should provide suggestions on specific operational details of ways that the town could become more energy efficient and how to implement sustainable energy practices to the staff through the town manager.

As is already happening with various initiatives of the school administration, the town should be willing to spend money on energy efficiency and the development of sustainable energy practices. Many things can be done that require short-term spending but will result in long-term savings, in addition to increasing the comfort of those using the buildings. I don't know that a staff position specifically to implement these initiatives is necessary. As with the initiatives that the school administration is already undertaking and has under consideration, investment should be in efforts that would provide a positive return.

Mary Ann Stewart

781-862-2178 MaryAnn@RedOnionDesign.com

I would favor a balanced and thoughtful approach towards energy conservation. More information and discussion would be necessary for me to understand and determine whether or not a Town Moderator appoints the town Energy Committee or the Board of Selectmen appoints; I don't know the arguments one way or the other.

The Energy Committee would do well to consider a commitment by the town to some measure of sustainable energy practices for municipal operations. I have heard discussion about how poorly our schools are heated, particularly that they are heated or cooled with inefficient HVAC systems. Because we have not had a preventative maintenance plan, we have let our schools deteriorate and that needs to change. It concerns me that our children, teachers, staff and town employees work in such energy inefficient buildings. I am pleased that the school administration has decided to adopt and implement the EPA's "Tools for Schools" program in all Lexington schools. New schools, like Harrington, can advance the cause of energy conservation practice with the implementation of geo-thermal energy delivery systems.

In general, I support consideration of spending for development of sustainable energy practices, but before going so far as to endorse the creation of a staff position, I would expect to know the particular goals of such a program.

Judith L. Zabin

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I do favor the creation of a Moderator-appointed town Energy Committee and follow the proposed

warrant article with interest. I also support the educational activities of the Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition.

Certainly, an Energy Committee should focus on studying and proposing policies related both to energy efficiency standards in municipal operations and to sustainable energy practices. These considerations should underlie a strategic plan to achieve and implement municipal energy policies and standards. I think the town should use fiscal resources and provide staff positions to achieve municipal energy efficiency and sustainable energy practices. For the present, I would support payback on anticipated savings but would advocate for a payback period long enough to accurately reflect the payback which results from adopting new energy efficiency standards and practices.



Precinct 2

Kenneth Kreuziger

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The objective to determine the energy implications of proposed actions at Town Meeting, including annual energy expenditures and potential energy savings for public buildings, is a prudent practice. Evaluating the current charge of the recently established Selectmen's Energy Conservation

Committee and the charge in the article for Town Meeting of the proposed Moderator's Energy Committee reveals a distinct similarity. It seems if there are two energy committees there should be clear and different objectives for each. In my opinion we should not preclude new staff or an operating budget, but neither should people be hired without a plan and anticipated results. Commitment of town resource allocation is appropriately determined through consensus developed at Town Meeting. From a broad policy perspective with the objective to foster sustainable energy use, the town could adopt energy efficiency standards or other strategies for reducing greenhouse gas from its operations in order to mitigate our impact on global climate change while at the same time potentially saving money. The strategies developed from our goals and policies might translate into community empowerment through community education resulting in modifications to our daily life. Additional benefits could accrue from public facility improvements by instituting best practices for "green buildings". The paybacks could be substantial in both financial terms for energy conservation and other non-quantifiable benefits.

Steven Kropper

steve@kropper.com

I'm already a member (Secretary actually) of the Selectman's new Energy Committee, so permit me to diverge from CLC's questionnaire.

Land use, energy conservation and environmental issues have been my life for twenty five years. I was responsible for energy management for Boston's three public hospitals and twenty-one health centers. I did the first super-insulated residential retrofit in the US. The project reduced annual energy use to \$170 per unit in a triple-decker in Dorchester. I have conducted dozens of low and no-cost energy workshops for Boston's poor. I bring substantial expertise in both commercial and residential energy conservation.

Personally, I regard energy conservation as an ethical issue, but any conservation plan for the Town's municipal operations is mostly about the money. At Boston City Hospital, we saved money so we could keep or hire doctors and nurses. In Lexington it is about teachers and critical town services. 1) First, the town should have a program of no-and low-cost energy management that uses

"screwdrivers and brains to tune and tighten municipal buildings. 2) Then we need to capture the more expensive energy saving measures through a capital investment plan for the 1-5 year payback items.

For thirty years, I have been a member of the Sierra Club and most major environmental groups. I am very active on population issues, looking particularly at the impact of immigration on the environment. I believe that open space preservation, traffic mitigation and other environmental issues should be primary drivers of our town planning process. My grandfather said that we have an obligation to leave the earth in better shape. I believe that we have an obligation to deliver the same environmental quality of life to the next generation of residents as we enjoy. Environmental issues are actually a small part of TM responsibilities. My experience running businesses, hiring and firing staff, developing plans and budgets, raising capital and mediating between different and conflicting interests is an equally important qualification.

Precinct 3

Robert I. Rotberg

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As Eph Weiss has long suggested, a Moderator-appointed town energy committee is desirable.

The Committee should investigate energy efficiency, sustainable energy issues, and municipal and school operations. Detailed investigations are necessary.

I advocate town spending on energy efficiency and sustainable energy practices, as suggested by the proposed committee. A staff position would help, so would investing beyond anticipated savings.

Precinct 4

Gloria Bloom

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1. I don't have strong feelings either way about who should appoint the committee. The important thing is that the committee actually be used to assist the town in making energy efficient decisions in its operation and its building program.

2. I think the committee would be most useful in providing input into the design criteria for any new construction or renovation that the town undertakes and in methodically reviewing the current energy usage practices of the town.

3. I would only support the creation of a staff position of energy conservator if the position was likely to be more than self-supporting, i.e. we would have to expect that savings from reduced consumption and searching out of available grants and rebates for improving efficiency would more than pay for the position. As important as fostering sustainable energy practices is, I think town expenditures should be limited to projects with a relatively quick payback (say, no more than 5 or 6 years), and we should start with the projects with the most immediate payback. Perhaps some fraction of the savings could be put into a fund for future projects which would have a longer payback.

David Harris

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I support the Board of Selectmen-appointed town Energy Committee and at this time do not support a Moderator-appointed town energy committee. While I believe a town energy committee is important in my view it does not rise to the level of the Appropriations Committee or the Capital Expenditures Committee, the other Moderator-appointed committees.

The town Energy Committee should alert the town to new equipment and techniques that enable sustainable energy practices and efficient energy use. This committee should work on the development of a strategic plan for municipal energy efficiency, energy efficiency standards, and the investigation of sustainable energy practices. The charge of this committee should be to provide information and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting. The committee should work in an advisory capacity with the town administrators and department heads regarding specific projects and the operational details of implementing energy saving practices.

In general I support the investment of town money to improve the efficiency of the town's energy use. Much of this investment would be recovered due to lower energy costs. I would support the creation of a staff position focused on energy issues only if a strong case was made concerning the need and

cost-effectiveness of this position. Due to limited town funds, I find it much harder to support investment in sustainable energy practices that do not provide anticipated future savings in energy costs.

John (JJ) Krawczyk

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1. No. I believe that the committee appointed by the Board of Selectman will be more effective at influencing town operations. By operating under the Board of Selectman, the committee will have better access to all the departments and staff in town than a moderator-appointed committee would have.

2. Yes to all three.

3. I would support the creation of a staff position if energy costs exceed 2% of the town's budget.

I believe that the focus should be on those policies that produce a payback in less than five years, but I cannot totally rule out supporting sustainable energy practices that may not produce a payback in that timeframe.

Gerald Paul

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1. The issue of energy conservation has never been as critical as it is today. In addition to the opportunity to reduce town expenses, energy conservation will help reduce pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources. For this reason the need for an effective energy committee is self-evident. At this point, I do not have enough information to know whether a Selectmen or Moderator appointed committee will be most appropriate. What is important is that whichever body appoints the committee, the committee should be composed of members who will work actively and with credibility

2. The energy committee should involve itself with policy, strategic planning and operational details. It should also monitor the progress of the town's efforts and report on these efforts at a minimum on an annual basis.

3. The creation of a staff position could greatly benefit energy conservation efforts in Lexington.

The energy committee should make a recommendation on this matter.

In a time of fiscal difficulty, investments in energy saving programs and practices should be those which have a pay back in a reasonable time frame. Programs which meet these criteria should be implemented before any consideration is given to projects with negative pay back.



Precinct 5

Elaine Dratch

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1. An active town energy committee becomes more necessary, as energy demand rises and costs increase. A Moderator appointed committee, composed of technically proficient citizens would, presumably, take its charge seriously. It would be required to report to Town Meeting, as well as the Town and School boards

2. The energy Committee should involve itself with those issues described by the CLC, based on a reasonable time frame.

~Policy issues, energy efficient standards, sustainable energy practices.

~Some of the Strategic Planning energy issues have already been explored and defined by Vision 20/20, which could serve as a basis for further research.

~After the planning phase, the committee could become involved with operational and implementation practices, both for ongoing maintenance (weatherproofing, heating, cooling, vehicle use) and for new building construction.

3. The town budget is currently too tight for a designated staff position, but some energy efforts could be absorbed into everyday practices. In new projects or construction, the contracted work could require proper technical inclusion, regarding energy standards. Investment in an energy program would have difficulty getting budget approval, unless a proven payback is anticipated. So, at minimum, a long-term payback would be necessary.

Ana Flaster

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If elected to my first term in Town Meeting (Precinct 5) I would support the recently appointed BoS Energy Committee. I believe that a committee that reports directly to the BoS and can be called upon throughout the year as needed may make better progress than one that is on a yearly cycle tied to Town Meeting. That said, I would support a Town Moderator appointed committee if we can identify enough qualified, willing residents to help promote the issue of energy conservation and to work collaboratively and in a complementary way with the BoS-appointed committee.

As I understand it, the BoS-appointed committee is comprised of the Director of DPW, the Schools Facility Director, a member of the Capital Expenditures Committee and Selectman Hank Manz. The committee is scheduled to meet for the first time the week of February 7th. The make up of the committee bodes well because I believe energy conservation will be best achieved by taking a broad look throughout the town--municipal and schools sides--and coordinate all of our efforts to ensure we reach this goal. Additionally, I would hope that the committee could dovetail its efforts with other groups so that residents can learn more about what we can do in our own homes to conserve energy and protect the environment.

I also hope that the BoS- appointed Energy Committee takes any on-going efforts to conserve energy and protect the environment into account as it considers recommendations. For example, the School Facilities Department is promoting the funding of preventive maintenance work in next year's budget that would conserve energy by correcting existing HVAC problems, improve indoor air quality in our school buildings, and save significantly in terms of fuel costs.

The important thing is that we as a town get to work immediately to find both practical short term and wise long term energy conservation strategies. Our health, our tax dollars, and our world are exposed to great risk if we do not take this important step.

Olga P. Guttag

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1. Position on a Moderator-appointed town energy committee:

I strongly support a SINGLE energy committee that would be charged with matters related to energy. Such committee could then divide into sub-committees that deal with more narrow areas. I am concerned that having two competing energy committees will dilute the quality of highly qualified volunteers each committee will be able to attract, and perhaps have the committees replicating each other's work or even work cross-purposes. I have a mild preference for a committee that is accountable to the TM, but as long as the committee is productive, I can support either.

2. Charge to the Energy committee:

- a. Develop energy policies for town-owned properties and operations, including sustainable energy practices,
- b. Develop a multi-year strategic energy plan,
- c. Help evaluate and provide feedback on town's operations as they pertain to energy conservation and use (e.g., Should we continue building new schools with geo-thermal heating systems?)

3. Town funding of energy efficiency efforts/sustainability practices:

- a. As a citizen and later as a School Committee member I have been advocating for paying more attention to energy issues in our projects for years. For example, I have been relentless in pushing for updates to Clarke schools heating system to reduce energy consumption - a project that is finally on the way.
- b. I am a strong supporter of federal, state and local policies that will reduce US dependence on foreign energy sources, and I support paying for these efforts at all levels of government.
- c. I believe that energy conservation and sustainable energy practices are essential to the survival of our planet. Since, in my opinion, the higher levels of government are not moving fast enough on needed energy policies, I would urge TM and our elected boards to invest in a cost-

effective manner into energy conservation and sustainable energy practices. In hindsight, had we done this 5-15 years ago, our investments (which seemed high at the time) would have long since been yielding us savings.

Ann Kelly

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Energy conservation is becoming increasingly important, as natural resources become more scarce, therefore increasingly expensive, and pollution takes a greater toll on our environment. Being within walking distance of an elementary, middle, and high school, was an important criterion for my family when we purchased our home. Any time I can spend walking with my daughters, instead of driving, is time well spent.

I would not favor a Town Moderator appointed energy group, because the Board of Selectmen just appointed an Energy Committee. Everyone interested in working on the issue should band together in one committee to make recommendations and find solutions to our energy concerns. One coherent strategic plan has a better chance of being executed, rather than multiple view points vying for implementation. Additionally, the Board of Selectmen also has more power to foster change in how the town uses its energy resources. Due to tight budget constraints, in a year sure to bring us an override, any specific operations changes costing additional money, need to be tied to financial paybacks. Not immediately, but eventually Lexington would need to see fiscal savings, as well as energy conservation and a better environment, as a consequence of any action.

J.R. Lowry

James.Lowry@mckinsey.com

1. Yes, I favor establishing this committee, on an ad hoc basis for now. Rising energy costs are clearly putting pressure on the town's budget, and that suggests that a fresh look at energy costs and policies/practices would be worth while. Additionally, there has been consistent discussion, albeit mostly on an informal basis, about whether Lexington should establish a municipal power plant. We need to commit to investigating this issue and forming a definitive perspective on what the town should do.

2. In terms of the charge to this committee, I believe it should first work with the town facilities managers in an advisory capacity to help review energy policies and practices and to help identify feasible, near-term steps the town could take to reduce energy costs. Any such actions should address both consumption (e.g., through low-cost facility improvements) and rates paid (e.g., through the use of price hedges or lock-in agreements). Resolving the municipal power plant issue should be a second priority for the group. I would ask the committee to propose a set of recommendations on the first area within 6 months and on the second in no longer than a year. As for policy issues, I would only ask the group to address these after the first two areas have been satisfactorily completed.

3. Given the town's current financial constraints, I believe any energy improvement efforts will need to be self-funding and that the effort be completely volunteer-led, other than any support provided by existing town staff. Thus it will be critical to find a mix of committee members with some combination of facilities management, energy, and financial expertise.

Sam Silverman

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I favor the proposal to set up a Moderator-appointed town energy committee. Global warming is now generally accepted as a fact, with very significant effects on our lives. Energy dependence on foreign oil becomes increasingly subject to political influences, and these as well as political instability in countries in the Middle East, Africa and South America, means that prices for energy will go up substantially in coming years, with a consequent inflationary effect on goods and services, and an increasing squeeze on low and middle income families, who can ill afford these increases. Lexington can at least make a small contribution to this problem, and perhaps even indicate to others what can be done to reduce energy use while maintaining our standard of living. As an example, the use of the newer energy efficient light bulbs can save up to 2/3 of our lighting bill. Thus an energy committee becomes worthwhile. Such a committee should consider all aspects of these problems: policy issues, strategic planning, and suggest operational plans to the appropriate town officials. The town should certainly invest in energy efficiency. At the

last town meeting it was pointed out that the payback time in replacing tungsten light bulbs with compact fluorescents was of the order of months, and the town would be saving in costs thereafter. Whether a staff position dedicated to energy should be set up depends firstly on a recommendation by the Town Manager, which should then be considered by our finance committees and Town Meeting. It is too early to have a position on this.

Precinct 6

Bebe Fallick

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With costs spiraling, the Town must take energy seriously and must stay focused.

1. I am pleased that the Selectmen have recently formed a new energy committee which is charged with advising town officials as to ways to enhance energy conservation throughout the Town's physical plant. By consolidating existing energy related committees, and by appointing qualified citizens and Town staff to the new committee, the Town Manager and Selectmen will receive relevant input when budgets are being formulated. The proposed Moderator-appointed committee will have no Town staff as voting members and will react only after the budget is formulated. The proposed committee will also overlap with the Appropriation and Capital Expenditures Committees.

2. The Energy Committee should investigate and advise the Town Manager and Selectmen on each of the suggested proposals to become more energy conscious. The recently adopted sustainable design policy by the Selectmen relating to construction projects can serve as a model for a charge to the Committee.

4. The Town should create a position similar to the Facilities Manager in the School Department. Energy enhancements would be given high priority along with ongoing maintenance issues. Regional cooperation should be explored. Until state aid is restored, energy projects that result in paybacks should be given priority.



Edith Sandy

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Lexington is fortunate in the number of citizens who volunteer to share their expertise in a wide variety of fields with the Town. I think a standing Energy Committee, with a charge to make recommendations on energy-related matters to the Permanent Building Committee, the School Committee, and other Town boards and officials, could serve several very useful purposes. First of all, it would be a "bully pulpit" to make the Town aware of the importance, both ecological and economic, of energy conservation. Second, it could assist in performing energy audits of Town buildings (particularly the schools) and do cost-benefit analyses of amelioration measures and their payback periods. Third, by requiring some minimum standards of energy efficiency when buildings are constructed or remodeled, it could help avoid poor decisions that save money in the short term, at the expense of huge long-term costs. For example, when it was built, Clarke Middle School installed electric heating (without individual room controls!) because the up-front cost was cheaper than oil or gas. Even with the increase in energy costs, the first, failed debt-exclusion override to remodel Clarke cost the Town the opportunity to retrofit Clarke's heating system controls. Last year, we finally appropriated money for this effort (even without the state aid we would have gotten as part of the remodeling). Hopefully we have learned something since then -- more attention was paid to energy efficiency in the construction of the new Harrington School -- but I suspect that there is still room for improvement.

Given the current and foreseeable cost of energy, you don't have to be a "tree-hugger" to value its most efficient use. It should be possible to persuade even the most ardent fiscal conservative that the long-term payback of energy conservation and efficiency is a bargain. I'm not sure whether we need a staff position to support these efforts. Rather, I think anyone whose job includes maintenance (or construction) of our public spaces needs to understand the importance of energy conservation and be committed to its implementation. A step in the right direction is the new Facilities Director of the Lexington Schools, who, by all accounts, is very much aware of the fact that tax dollars are flying out of the schools' chimneys, and has already taken steps to ameliorate some of the problems.

Sheldon Spector

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There have been commentaries by the proponents of the Moderator-appointed town energy committee which I have attended and/or read but not detailed public comments from the Board of Selectmen or Town Manager regarding this proposed new committee and therefore it is difficult to thoroughly respond to the questions raised based on complete and factual information. A one-sided perspective is premature at this date and I await responses from the Selectmen, Town Manager and perhaps the Moderator and discussions on Town Meeting floor prior to making a decision as to the validity of this proposal. The Town's responsibility for energy conservation lies with Town and School Staff and the Board of Selectmen and School Committee and initially I sensed that it should not be micromanaged by Town Meeting. If Town Staff and the Selectmen are not prioritizing this issue or not adequately doing this job, we have mechanisms to deal with this and circumventing the Selectmen with such a Committee sets a dangerous precedent wherein many other worthy issues and special interest groups may be addressed by establishing numerous similar additional committees under the Town Moderator which I feel might muddle operational efficiencies. A Selectmen-appointed committee would seem to be more effective.

Having said the above, and in light of being many years ago one of the first Lexington homeowners to get total installations of solar panels and discs to serve as renewable energy resources, improved energy efficiency and reduced energy costs are part of my personal fiber and ensuring higher energy performance from our Town's infrastructure has been a priority for me in many Town committee assignments over the past 20 years. Evaluation of all energy use and alternatives is important today and will only expand in importance as energy costs escalate in future years. Regarding spending money on energy efficiency efforts and improved energy practices makes sense so long as the payback period is reasonable, especially in these difficult financial times in Lexington, and available energy efficiency grants should be sought to reduce the payback period. Sustainable energy resources and, more importantly, safe renewable resources such as solar are obviously extremely important to minimize to the extent possible dependence on unreliable energy resources.



Precinct 7

Fred H. Martin

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1. With the increasing price and emphasis on energy efficiency I would favor a Moderator appointed committee. I think it would be productive to concentrate and coordinate all aspects of town energy. I believe the Moderator, being less subject to political constituencies, would be the most effective agent in selecting committee members with the necessary technical expertise as well as the broadest town views.
2. The committee should be charged with first evaluating practical technologies and then to lead residents by example. It should set policy and goals to demonstrate increasing energy efficiencies in town operations including the introduction of less polluting vehicles and the utilization of alternate energy sources. The committee's work and accomplishments should be used as a catalyst for the citizenry to examine their own energy use and ways to reduce its consumption. The increase in awareness in recyclables across town should be examined as a model.
3. A volunteer committee should first work to develop and policies and implementation practices for the town. Serious implementation will require money. However, an implementation should be subject to careful cost-benefit analysis and not simply payback. Changes in energy habits and modalities may have subtle benefits as well as costs and these would need to be thoroughly investigated before commitment.

James C. Wood, Jr.
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It is a pleasure to respond to CLC regarding the issue of conservation. As a member of the Lexington Tree Committee I value and work toward enhancing the tree canopy of Lexington improving our environment. Since we have limited to no funds from the town we have written and received grants allowing modest planting to proceed.

Now, regarding the town energy committee. I would favor the Selectmen appointing the committee and insuring a detailed report be made to Town Meeting. I support the Town Energy committee because both the School Committee (the largest energy user) and the Town have failed to have any meaningful energy conservation program. My suggestion to the selectmen is that the charge to the committee is to identify actions that would reduce energy usage by 25% (actual energy usage, not the cost) over a 10 year period.

Part of the capital cost may be offset by State and Federal Grants, local energy company programs, and perhaps private foundations interested in energy conservation.

Now, for this committee to be more than just arm waving, the Selectmen and Town Meeting must evaluate and buy into the recommendations provided by the energy committee.

As far as staffing, I am opposed to any additional staffing either on the School or Town side. They both have facility managers and as part of their yearly review an evaluation of how they have achieved their energy goals should be conducted.

In the end the program to be successful will require clearly defined goals, commitment on the part of the entire town, and holding those responsible for achieving these goals accountable.

Precinct 8

Larry Belvin
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It is not important to me as to whether the Selectmen or the Moderator appoint the members of the town Energy Committee; what is important is that the town have such a committee.

My charge to the town Energy Committee would be to keep abreast of the current developments in energy efficiency primarily in the areas of heating and cooling of non-residential buildings. In addition, I would ask the Energy Committee to examine the municipal and school utility bills carefully each year and to focus on those bills that show both the highest level of cost per square foot and the highest percentage increase from one year to the next.

The town should be willing to spend money on energy efficiency when the payback period is relatively short. If the payback period is 5 years or less, then the town should certainly be willing to spend the money to improve energy efficiency. If the payback period is 5-10 years, the Energy Committee should investigate the likelihood of a better payback period if the energy efficiency improvement is put off.

I don't think it is reasonable to spend additional town money to foster and maintain sustainable energy practices; there instead has to be a relatively short payback period.

Kay Tiffany
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As one of the founding members of the Global Warming Action Coalition I am pleased that the town is taking action on developing energy conservation measures. We now have a new Energy Committee appointed by the Selectmen which has met and is formulating plans for action. The warrant article was helpful in calling attention to the need for a strong energy committee.

The Energy Committee should be a policy making group and develop standards and procedures that will support the DPW and School Department employees in carrying out energy efficient practices. A comprehensive study of town energy use should be done which would identify places for savings to be made and provide the means to measure and evaluate the savings. Beyond just addressing town energy consumption, it is my hope that the entire town of Lexington will have, and someday reach, the goal of being a sustainable community. With education, commitment, creative planning, and the new technology that is being developed every day, I believe we can do it.

The federal government is failing to take action on our dependency on and overuse of fossil fuels, but we can act in our personal lives and as a town. I believe the town must spend the money for a staff position to oversee the town's development of sustainable practices for us to be successful. This position would pay for itself very soon, with savings, grants, etc. But in the meantime we should make the monetary commitment to this essential program.

Precinct 9

Richard Canale

See Candidate for Planning Board

Susan Elberger

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1. I don't see the advantage of a Moderator-appointed energy committee as long as the Selectmen attend to the committee they have appointed. Since the schools have a major stake in this effort, they should have input into the charge and composition of this committee as well.

2. The committee's role should be to develop a strategic plan for municipal energy efficiency, including energy efficiency standards, measures of sustainable energy practices, a timeline for reaching specific goals related to energy efficiency, and a clear definition of who is responsible to insure that goals are met. Their charge might also include operational details, although operations are usually within the purview of staff rather than policy makers. I would certainly expect the committee to explore options for achieving significant energy conservation and the fiscal savings connected to them, offering the advantages and disadvantages for each.

3. The town must be willing to spend at least the amount of anticipated savings on energy efficiency efforts. A staff position should be created, with responsibilities for all municipal facilities. Because the school department has the largest amount of buildings and grounds of all departments, the staff position should report primarily to the head of the school department's director of buildings and grounds, and secondarily to the director of DPW, with funding shared proportionally by the various departments.

There are some simple efforts which must be undertaken immediately, without waiting for a committee report. These include simple measures we use in our own homes, such as turning off lights when rooms are not in use and turning down the temperature to no more than 68 degrees during times of usage, and lower temperatures when the buildings are not in use.

Mollie Garberg

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1. The Board of Selectman and Town Staff are the bodies with the most direct oversight of day-to-day energy efficiency efforts. Therefore, I believe a properly instructed BOS-appointed committee would be the most effective means of directing and implementing energy efficiency efforts.

2. I would charge the Energy Committee with forwarding carefully considered policy recommendations and developing a thorough strategic plan in cooperation with staff and other committees as appropriate. This would likely require a comprehensive understanding of current operations. For example, I would see this committee potentially performing or assisting in the performance of energy audits, evaluating capital expenditure needs to facilitate improvement in energy efficiency and working with both the town and the schools facilities staff to optimize our energy performance with learning and strategies across departments.

3. I think we all know that energy costs are not going to decrease but rather increase dramatically over the next decade. Pro-actively dealing with this reality is a necessity. A staff position would strengthen and expedite our town's achievements in energy efficiency and conservation and I would therefore support it. Similarly, investment in capital equipment, not limited to payback, will likely be necessary to ensure gains in energy efficiencies now and in the future.

Bill Kennedy

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I do not favor creation of a moderator appointed committee. Keep in mind that the Town Meeting only meets once, perhaps twice per year. Formation of this committee with a charge to report back to Town Meeting would not be effective. It would operate much more smoothly and effectively

if it reported back to the Town Manager or the Selectmen.

Such a committee could provide immense help in reducing energy costs in our buildings and street lighting. There are individual volunteers in the town with the skills to greatly add to the resources of the town staff in uncovering potential energy conservation measures and implementing them. My charge would be to address these issues first, followed by input to the selectmen on establishing policy with regard to energy efficiency and/or sustainable standards

Policy issues are best left with the selectmen and town meeting but the committee could serve as expertise to the selectmen in establishing reasonable and attainable standards. The selectmen, by the way, have already established a standard for all of our new construction to comply with the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system.

I believe that the selectmen should develop a strategic plan to achieve energy efficiency and incorporate sustainable energy practices in all of our buildings and infrastructure. It will require an ongoing effort throughout the year and reporting back to the selectmen and town manager on a regular basis. The reporting should include opportunities investigated and results achieved.

The town should address those many opportunities, which I am convinced, exist for energy conservation that both return significant savings to the town and reap the benefits of reduced impact on the environment. As efforts progress to those opportunities with a reduced return on the investment, the selectmen can make a decision as to whether it is in the best interests of the town to pursue them.

With respect to creation of a staff position to implement these efforts, I believe that it is too early to make such a decision. My initial thinking is that it would not be necessary since we have both the DPW and the facilities department in the schools that can accomplish this work.

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The fact that Lexington is focusing on energy conservation and sustainable energy use is heartening. As more people become aware of the environmental challenges facing us, we can only hope that this focus will help us to become more responsible in the way that we use our limited resources. At this time, however, I do not favor the creation of a Moderator-appointed town energy committee. I would like to give the new Town Manager a chance to work with the Development Review Team to develop a strategic plan. I would like to hear what the town Energy Committee recently appointed by the Board of Selectmen is advocating and recommending. At the risk of sounding like someone who does not recognize the urgency of the problem (and nothing could be farther from the truth), I would still like to suggest that we wait a year before we create such an energy committee.



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CLC Board Supports CPA

The voters of Lexington will be asked on March 6 to approve the Community Preservation Act (CPA) for Lexington. Citizens for Lexington Conservation's Board of Directors has voted unanimously to support adoption of the CPA and urges its members and the voters of Lexington to approve this act.

Approval of the CPA would raise funds annually that would be specifically earmarked for open space preservation, affordable housing, and historic preservation purposes through a 3% property tax surcharge. Exemptions are provided for the first \$100,000 of assessed valuation as well as for low and moderate income households. By adopting the surcharge, Lexington becomes eligible for yearly state matching funds. Further details can be found by visiting the CPA for Lexington web site at www.CPAforLexington.org.

The portion of CPA funds that would be set aside each year for open space preservation could be used for a wide array of purposes, ranging from additional property acquisitions to important infrastructure investments for both the management of our existing open space inventory as well as the planning process for future acquisition opportunities. Projects as diverse as invasive plant eradication programs, new trail construction, the purchase of consulting services for updating the town's Open Space Management Plan, or the acquisition and installation of GIS mapping capabilities would all be possible through the use of CPA funds.

Lexington's past investment in its existing inventory of protected open space was an investment in the community's future. We are all beneficiaries of that investment. Passage of the CPA will be an investment in Lexington's future conservation needs and opportunities. It will also be an investment in the needs of the affordable housing and historical preservation segments of our community as well. Please join the CLC board members at the polls on March 6 in supporting the adoption of the CPA for Lexington.



