

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

1/11/2018

City Hall Annex

*Attendees:* Melissa Chan (chair), Olga Faktorovich (vice chair), Thomas Chase (secretary), Rosalie Anders, Peter Crawley, Keith Giamportone, Brian Goldberg, Ted Live, John Ullman, Christopher Nielson, David Rabkin, Keren Schlomy; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc, Seth Federspiel

*Guests:* Sally Watermulder, Jim Brown

Approval of Minutes

- December minutes passed

ETP Director Report

- Transportation: June 2018 BRT pilot between Belmont Street and Fresh Pond Parkway, first ever exclusive bus lanes in Cambridge, enabled by Barr Foundation grant
  - Morning peak hour, there are as many people in 19 buses (500) as there are in 495 cars in this corridor
  - State is making improvements to Fresh Pond Parkway signal infrastructure
- Separated bike facilities being tested on same corridor
- Spring 2018, all separated bike facilities will be evaluated
- Retrofit Advisor Pilot to be initiated in next several months to assist with follow-up and decision-making after energy audits
  - HVAC measures are the ones most often avoided
  - MA CEC has pre-qualified vendors for renewable thermal
  - Eversource has long list of pre-qualified vendors
  - City is participating in process to amend MassSave process to include this service in the future
  - CPAC comment: how to avoid conflict between Retrofit Advisor and MassSave contractor recommendations?
    - City cannot be in position of making recommendations on best approach to homeowners
    - EnergySage-like structured bids are long-term goal
    - City will likely provide bid templates at first
    - City will look to MA CEC for supporting this program

Net Zero Action Plan Progress Report

- Seth Federspiel, John Bolduc, Keren Schlomy, David Rabkin, and Melissa Chan met to discuss a letter of recommendation to include in plan progress report
  - CPAC Sub-Committee is drafting letter to City Council

- The below are treated as group that CPAC will include in letter to support as proposed future zoning change:
  - Action 2.3 – Establishing Increased Green Building Requirements
  - Action 2.5 – Removing Barriers to Increased Insulation
  - Action 3.2 – Rooftop Ready Solar Requirement
- Low Carbon Energy Supply Strategy, study completed in 2017, will lead to recommendations with very long-term recommendations, some of which will require partnership between City and external entities, CPAC will emphasize the importance of this in its letter
  - Need to work with other regional municipalities, CPAC has not discussed how we can lead this effort, but can be included in our recommendations
  - CPAC can continue to review status of Low Carbon Energy Supply Recommendations in future following presentation of report
- Note to group: Process of studying market-based incentives, broad range of optional incentives may come out of this, CPAC should keep eyes on and engage these as they are produced, not necessarily to be mentioned in letter
- City will continue to seek input from NZAP plan stakeholders on progress, will continue to work with other municipalities to push regional priorities
- Custom retrofit progress to be made in commercial and manufacturing sector, progress is being made in residential, CPAC should keep eyes on progress
  - BEUDO discussion around performance requirements for BEUDO buildings, simultaneous development of custom retrofit program would support improvements in buildings with new BEUDO requirements
  - BEUDO amendment design process to be stakeholder-driven process, would be appropriate for CPAC to have representation in this group

#### Climate Protection Goals I: Climate Change Solutions Innovation

- Revisted from December meeting, committee asked John Bolduc to assemble list of innovative initiatives in the City
- Bronwyn Cooke provided short overview of other organizations’ metrics for evaluating innovation
  - Largely developed for individual businesses and product innovation
  - Did not find metrics specific to climate and energy
  - Process, product, organizational, marketing and communication innovation were typical categories
  - STAR community indicators include innovation for points if actions are not included in STAR framework
  - Eco-Districts has broad innovation objectives
    - e.g. “interaction between entrepreneurs is fostered”
  - Center for Accelerating Innovation resource
    - Inputs (not measuring effectiveness)
    - Process
    - Outcomes
  - Who is doing innovating? Who benefits from innovations?

- Cambridge has innovative companies, institutions, and individuals – do we take credit for that in goals and progress reports? What do we do as a City to encourage innovation?
- As a CPAC goal, our task is to advise the City, innovation should be viewed through this lens, and what levers City has to encourage innovation.
  - What are levers?
    - Regulations
    - Partnerships
    - Funding
  - City involvement is another lever, as convener or connector
- Purpose of goal was to measure whether we could leapfrog instead of making incremental change
- Pulling innovation out as separate goal begs the question of how is this different from innovation required to meet all other goals
  - Is restating of goal needed to highlight what the City can uniquely do that others in the municipality cannot?
  - Goal could be revised more frequently
- Climate Action Plan updates in progress, this is included in CPACs 2020 goals, some goals do not belong in CAP that is focused on mitigation
- Categories for City Innovation Levers: City can: pilot, fund, convene, publicize, regulate, award, finance
- Some innovative processes (like participatory budgeting) result in non-innovative solutions
- What is value of great ideas versus implementation? Innovation without end result is not the point?
- For this goal, focus on innovative ideas and process, not goals that fall under other categories?
- Is this a process or outcome goal, is it included in other goals as innovation implementation here in Cambridge (as a result of being included in other Cambridge goals) versus innovation implementation elsewhere?
- The heart of this goal is a measure of whether we're taking risks
- City can be feedback loop between process/ideas and implementation/outcomes.
  - How can this be measured?
- City has challenge if attempting to pilot innovations for private entities versus the non-profit research institutions. City need not be the entity to provide a pilot, goal could still be about encouraging or supporting more pilots through creating an entity outside of City to do this.
  - CPAC could convene innovators, ask what would be helpful, could do this as a regularly scheduled conversation
  - Existing competitions that City could promote? CPAC innovation award?
  - Encourage City Manager to reserve portion of participatory budget for winner of Climate Co-Lab, e.g. Cool Spot passively cooled benches, can speak to Co-Lab organizers about creating a Cambridge project track
  - University innovation funds (e.g. Harvard Innovation Fund can award projects on campus or in the community, can City help coordinate the use of these funds?)
- For goal: categorize levers and regularly review where CPAC can nudge innovation along, create living list of categories to encourage City to engage on – these will become objectives under Goal I
  - Potential to interact with Cambridge Innovation Center on ongoing basis?

- Could Sustainability Dashboard support intake of innovation project ideas in the future?

### Member Reports

Rosalie Anders

- Poor People's Campaign, Rev. William Barber (social justice leader) is revitalizing Martin Luther King Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign, adding a fourth pillar "Climate Disruption." Local group is in early phases of organizing.
- Peace and climate group looks at interconnections between social justice and climate, will host panel on Puerto Rico crisis and sustainability innovations there.

John Bolduc

- Woods Hole group is studying extent of January 4<sup>th</sup> storm surge flooding
- Extensive rains expected January 11<sup>th</sup> and will be monitored

*Notes by Tom Chase*