

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

July 12, 2018

City Hall Annex

Officers: Melissa Chan, Chair; Tom Chase, Secretary; *Members:* Michael Sojka, Nathalie Wallace, Steven Nutter, Trisha Montalbo, Susan Weber, Christopher Nielson, Keith Giampartone, Brian Goldberg, Lyn Huckabee, David Rabkin, Keren Schlomy, Anthony Michetti, Rachel Jacobson, Julie Wormser, Lauren Miller, Ted Live, Paula Phipps; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc.

Approval of Minutes— Minutes of the June 14, 2018 meeting were approved without changes

ETP Director Report

- Susanne Rasmussen—looking at feasibility of zero net energy buildings—requirements, reporting, enforcement, offsets—close to completing
- Starting community engagement and analysis for Cambridgeport adaptation planning—very different from Alewife (happened in context of Envision Alewife) in terms of engaging stakeholders. Hope to complete in November, citywide plan done next December.
- Working on comprehensive electric vehicle strategy including charging station infrastructure for Cambridge using city and Eversource funds.
- Under nebulous term “future of mobility”—changing very quickly (e.g., dockless bikes vs. scooters), working to get ahead of electric scooters, one wheels, EVs, etc. in terms of both climate and transportation planning.
- A very big issue is to get an RFP out to help think through municipal aggregation 2.0 (current contract ends in January), and working to get to 100% renewable energy for municipal purposes. E.g., MIT is investing heavily in solar in North Carolina. In June, Mayor Walsh announced an RFI for 100% renewable energy for municipalities.
- July 23—hearing on increasing resident permit parking fee to raise money for vehicle trip reduction activities.
- Council just declared Sept 24-30 climate preparedness week—what should we do?
- Compact for a Sustainable Future—Harvard, MIT, Cambridge and 12 large businesses are hiring a salaried, 25 hr/week coordinator position. Job posted on city website.
- Citizen zoning petition submitted re: climate resiliency and green scorecard for developments—went to planning board and city council. Don’t know yet what will happen. Planning board recommended against. Everyone agrees with goals, but standards and strategies are more problematic to implement. Council is still debating. Since it has been filed, all development projects are potentially subject to it until decision happens. If no action, expires September 25th.

Introduction of New Members

- Tom Chase — sustainability consultant at New Ecology
- Steven Nutter—Executive director, Green Cambridge

- Susan Weber—lives near Fresh Pond, works in energy industry
- Trisha Montalbo—lives in mid-Cambridge—life cycle assessment with manufacturers
- Christopher Nielson—architect with Bruner Cott—regenerative/high performance design
- Keith Giamportone—near Fresh Pond—architectural consultant, faculty
- Brian Goldberg—MIT Office of Sustainability— adaptation and sustainability
- Paula Phipps—work with Biodiversity for a Livable Planet—think tank
- Lyn Huckabee—Cambridgeport, Mass Department of Energy Resources—response load, residential energy efficiency
- David Rabkin—was at Museum of Science a long time—Cambridge resident
- Keren Schlomy—environmental lawyer
- Anthony Michetti--Harvard University Office of Sustainability (265 buildings)
- Rachel Jacobson—lives in Cambridgeport, works for American Society of Adaptation Professionals.
- Julie Wormser, North Cambridge, Mystic River Watershed Association
- Melissa Chan—East Cambridge— energy consultant
- Michael Sojka—works for Power Advocate
- Nathalie Wallace—lives near Porter Square, worked with CERES, now State Street—corporate investment in sustainability
- Ted Live—Cambridge resident, interested in solar
- Lauren Miller—Cambridge resident, former CPAC chair, environmental consultant with CDM Smith.

Envision Cambridge Climate and Environment Draft recommendations

- Draft has gone out to CPAC members.
- Last month’s meeting included update on EC working group—strategies, actions and indicators. We were asked to review and give recommendations re: additional ideas for indicators. Peter, Brian and Tom met to do that. Draft included the following:
 - Commended group’s work—no strong concerns
 - Technical foundation for preparedness: consider CBA for capital allocation and budgeting based on natural accounting
 - Incorporate best practices to reduce climate change: implement net zero action plan, increase site open space requirements, encourage non-impervious surfaces, GHG emission calculations for large projects, increase resiliency requirements for large buildings (e.g., contributing to resiliency hubs)
 - Educate community re: vulnerabilities: use this strategy through supporting existing neighborhood associations by enhancing their capacity to reach residents
 - Preserve and expand open space: city should take into account this strategy before selling/transferring land for private development.
 - Transitioning away from fossil fuels: pursue community solar project
 - Reduce landfilled waste: single stream may not be effective; encourage research into most effective means of increasing recycling rates
- Brainstormed around indicators:
 - Preparedness:

- consider accounting for % population within 1 mile of resiliency hub
- Measure ambient temperature at pedestrian level
- Update temperature modeling over time
- Account for change in permeable surfaces
- Track at-risk mechanicals in flood zones for permitted buildings (i.e., are they being elevated)
- Hospitalization—seems like low number—hard to track—recommend setting a goal of having it be flat or reduced
- Sustainable water resources:
 - Charles River—A- to A+
 - More aggressive waste totals over time
- Discussion: could we have a relevant indicator re: economic vulnerability during extreme weather (ability to continue to get to work/school, ability to recover)
- Envision Cambridge is the broader plan—climate feeding into the plan. Making most difference in terms of e.g., urban form at Alewife. Envision Cambridge working group— included a lot of subject knowledge—has completed its work. Our memo has also been finalized. Envision Cambridge will pare down the number of indicators to one per strategy. Schedule is to complete EC by end of 2018.
- For example, there's a large development proposal for Cambridge Park Drive that would include a community resilience center. They're also thinking about existing neighborhood organizations developing the programming and engagement for residents.
- Also concerns expressed re: Alewife Triangle and the fact that there's only one road out of the neighborhood in case of flooding. Problem is that it's not currently feasible to build another road (e.g., with a bridge over the railroad tracks).
- Thanked the subcommittee for their good work with the hopes that some will be adopted in the final document. Suzanne—thanks especially for the indicators

Draft Climate Action Plan

- Passed around the draft CAP—don't need feedback on typos—feedback on content helpful.
 - Exec summary
 - Intro—climate imperative and city vision, baseline GHG inventory and limitations
 - Overview of relevant city actions already happening
 - Sector-specific (e.g., waste, transportation) strategies covered in climate action plan
 - Implementation matrix
 - Effort needed to implement carbon neutral Cambridge
 - Appendix with info on carbon neutrality
- Key points:
 - Plan is data driven—not measuring every emission—based on BAT, available data
 - Fully implemented plan doesn't get us to carbon neutral—only gets us 70% reduction by 2050 over 2012 baseline. Not specific around the final 30% gap—e.g., offsets
 - City leadership, community buy in needed to achieve plan goals
 - Low energy supply study and this plan use different models, so numbers don't entirely line up, but trend similarly. Working to reconcile numbers.

- Next steps: tightening up document in terms of flow and content, improving graphics, tracking and monitoring plan over time, public outreach and engagement once the plan is released to start working on the update.
- Discussion: How do we know when we need to update models? What is the process? Cambridge owns model now—can be updated internally. Looking at which model assumptions on how e.g., EUI (energy usage intensity), building square footage is expected to change over time. Expectation that model will be updated at least every three years. Should also list barriers in Section 7 (implementation). How talking about co-benefits of adaptation strategies?
- Feedback deadline: Give to Bronwyn in next two weeks (July 27) to come back to August 9th CPAC meeting.
- Comparison to other cities? Not doing per-capita targets—it's an absolute number.
- Are we modeling technology cost changes (e.g., cost of solar panels) in terms of economic equity? California has looked at equity vs. energy options
- Also don't want to model Cambridge as an island.
- Conclusion—we want CPAC to support this CAP and keep a running list of opportunities for additions during the next update.
- It's likely that no city has a 100% plan for getting to net zero by 2050—it's a work in progress because technology is changing so quickly. There are also external factors (e.g., MA legislature bill to triple renewable portfolio standards).
- Need to look at barriers and sensitivity analysis for getting from 70-100% decrease in carbon emissions (e.g., energy source and energy use in existing building makes a much bigger difference than requiring new buildings to be zero net energy).

Member Reports

Nathalie Wallace

- Going to Governor Brown's climate summit in September, happy to report anything from here.

Notes by Julie Wormser