

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 14, 2019

City Hall Annex

Attendees: Keren Schlomy, Rachel Jacobson, Keith Giamportone, Ted Live, Fred Hewett, Julie Wormser, Tom Chase (secretary), Michael Sojka, John Ullman, Trisha Montalbo, Lauren Miller, Peter Crawley *staff:* Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Guests: Lillian Hsu (Cambridge Arts Council), Jennifer Lawrence (Community Development Department)

Approval of Minutes

ETP Director Report (none- Susanne not present)

Updates from John

- Net Zero Action Plan Progress Report meeting on 3/12; second meeting upcoming; full committee will take this up at April meeting
- Tree removal moratorium on private property for any trees that are above 4 feet off the ground took effect on Mon 3/11. Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force will complete soon; draft plan out this summer.
- MVP grant from the state funds three tasks; in implementation process – adaptive capacity study on War Memorial complex, developing four toolkits for different building dwellers/owners, Resilience Hubs development
- Sustainability Compact Lab Energy Working Group – embarking on second study for recommendations on energy efficiency for labs.
- Urban Land Institute beginning “Living With Heat” project via charrette process on four sites, including Somerville.
- Need to do officer elections at next CPAC meeting
- Meeting with Recycling Committee on 3/20 at the 730 Tavern
- Future of Mobility Study consultant selected: Arcadis; bulk of work to be completed by June 30. There will be an advisory group for that.

Climate Change, Art & Community

Briefing on plans to work with the arts community to engage on climate change; the 2019 River Festival Climate Change theme; and other activities. The committee discussed how these initiatives could be further leveraged to engage more of the community.

- Want to highlight how artists/art projects are being designed to address climate change. There is a lot of activity going on and art can be a great way to draw more people into this issue.
- Have been planning/implementing climate change art exhibition in City Hall Annex galleries: “Untold Possibilities At the Last Minute”. Many artists are contributing to the exhibition. Desire to balance hope and despair (challenge)

- Public art is more than murals and sculptures in public places. Examples:
 - Jean Wilcox: white roof + butterflies initiative + indicator at street level to inform people that this exists at roof level.
 - Tom Starr: Climate Remembrance Trail – using time travel concept to mark future events
 - Keith Hartwig; Matthew Battles: future of refrigeration; culinary explorations
 - Dietmar Offenhuber: micro ozone garden
 - Yearly poetry contest – climate change theme
- Global Challenge – high school program to think of innovative solutions to a challenge. Talk to Jen if you have expertise in any of these areas. Winning teams:
 - First winning team... ?
 - Gamifying actions you take at home
 - Sculpture to show future flooding levels
 - Climate change superhero
 - Installation for the T
- Cambridge River Festival – June 1, 12-6. Talk to Jen to connect with opportunities to engage with the Climate Pavilion and help plan puzzles for the Escape Room
 - Piloting composting + education
 - Climate Pavilion – interactive art (dance, music); how to create climate change cartoon; clean energy games for 5-8 grade; hosting community groups
 - Escape room – talking to company to build a climate-focused escape.

Resilient Mystic Collaborative

- Julie Wormser presented on climate resilience planning in the Mystic River Watershed
 - Brought Boston Harbor experience to Mystic group, including ethos that public interventions should be beautiful and livable
 - Collaborative founded with 10 founder municipalities in the watershed
 - Added Malden and Wakefield recently
 - Amelia Earhart Dam near flooding condition, sensitive electronic equipment at risk, request to Governor from municipalities and coalition, DCR is working to storm harden dam
 - How does dam help to protect upstream communities? Coalition is collaborating to share information and build support for additional protection of dam
 - Below dam, highest concentration of critical infrastructure in NE, transit, fuel storage, food distribution, waste water treatment
 - Working with Chelsea/Everett food distribution cooperative to encourage protection of site
 - Social vulnerability – reaching out to service providers to understand stress points on clients and what public policies can be impactful
 - Upper Mystic Stormwater Management
 - Rt. 16, Alewife Brook Parkway flooding
 - What's next?:
 - Collaborating with state on next dam improvements
 - Develop RMC working groups

- Apply for MVP, Kresge, and Barr funding
- Reach out to additional watersheds
- Within watershed, only Boston and Cambridge have 3D models of stormwater infrastructure to evaluate flood risk realistically
 - How to make this affordable for other communities?
 - Affordable model options?
 - Most communities only receive FEMA models
 - 2016 hydrodynamic model – Boston Harbor Flood Risk model
 - “Quick and dirty” model compared to CCVA model – a lot of overlap, using to plan action and do scenario assessments in these areas
 - What is regional vs. local responsibility?

Member Reports

Tom Chase

- NESEA Building Energy Boston conference today and tomorrow, keynote on carbon drawdown showing greater importance of embodied carbon in buildings versus operating carbon for the next 10-20 years

Notes by Rachel Jacobson and Tom Chase