

CPAC Meeting
January 13, 2022

Attending: John Bolduc, David Rabkin, Susanne Rasmussen, Trisha Montalbo, Ted Live, Keren Schomy, Rosalie Anders, Lyn Huckabee, Seth Federspiel, Tom Chase, Lauren Miller, Tom Chase, Peter Crawley, Steven Nutter, Melissa Chan, Paula Phipps.

6:00 pm Approval of minutes – December 9, 2021

Discussion: none

David-motion. Unanimous approval

6:05 ETP Director's Report

Susanne:

- EV Charging: they had a community meeting to move forward with four pilot two-vehicle curbside charging stations—Cambridgeport, The Port, North Cambridge (Pemberton, Upland)—in residential neighborhoods. Good turnout, strong support of putting them in for non-off-street parking residents. Going in the spring. Granted \$250k in participatory budgeting process for more in FY2023. Asking for \$100,000 through capital budget. Could get up to seven more dual heads next year. Plus Eversource may also support more. Julie will email re: federal funding for EV Charging
- See this in context re: parking spaces being removed in city to benefit cycling and transit. Some concerns that this also limits parking. Program is a pilot re: learning from this experience. May have enforcement issues re: moving once charging completed. Longer range—what percentage of vehicles will city be responsible for charging? Need level three chargers, which recharge much more quickly.
- Informed that they won a technical assistance grant from ACEEE to develop rental improvement program (action in the Net Zero Action Plan).
- On-boarded two new staff people—Tom O'Neill replaced Bronwyn, as well as BEUDO Amendment enforcement person—Jen Blue.
- Alas, John Bolduc is retiring Jan 28th from Cambridge. Fortunately, he will stay on part time through June. He has made an amazing contribution. He started Cambridge's climate program—has taken it far over last 24 years. Omicron levels have dropped off sharply—so may be able to be in-person for John's party. Seth will take over management of CPAC.

6:15 Net Zero Action Plan Updates

Objective: Seth Federspiel, CDD sustainability planner, will review revisions to the Net Zero Action Plan.

- Update on update: done with that process, working on getting the report and CPAC's letter ready to go to City Council for Jan 24th meeting. Peter Crawley represented CPAC on taskforce.
- Key points and changes:
 - Net Zero Action Plan needs to respond to changes in society, buildings, technology, regulations, etc.
 - Incorporated principals and frameworks (new emphasis on racial equity and justice)

- Increasing importance of addressing both equity and climate change in tandem—closely linked. Work in process. Each action is assessed through equity lens.
 - Real concern re: speeding up actions
- We are not on downward trajectory we need to be.
- Assessed status of each of the actions of the original ZNAP to see how to prioritize/deprioritize actions going forward based on how effective they were.
- Compared 2015 vs. 2021 actions—shortened list (good—more effective, streamlined plan). For example, removed Action Category 5.
- Additional changes in Actions 1-4 are listed in slide deck.

Discussion:

- Timeline of different actions? E.g., access to renewable energy through aggregation, private landlords buying renewable energy. Timeline and volumes over time?
 - For each action, summary slide provides overview of action, explanation of how impacts emissions over time (enabling actions vs. direct actions), and activities, equity lens, and cross-cutting issues.
 - Full report has a Gantt chart with all activities, then model of associated GHG reductions.
- What is the degree to which CPAC’s letter has been addressed in new draft? What is process going forward once this report has been submitted? Who does what to address our recommendations? We’re an advisory body, not regulatory body, but at the same time we want to provide feedback to a process at a time when it’s useful. Are there CPAC recommendations that were rejected?
 - Process to date: draft report was submitted to Taskforce; CPAC provided comments and letter to City Manager
 - Had additional Taskforce meeting on incorporating all remaining feedback; made a round of edits to the plan and report to reflect that feedback. Added introductory language re: urgency, need to push pace of reductions.
 - Need to continue to adapt and more quickly than every five years. Keep looking for new resources, policies, and technologies. Next five year review will start in 2025.
 - Final comment was around accountability and measurement to make sure we reflect progress as we go. Additional staff capacity will really help. Creating metrics to track plan as we go. This is the FY2020 annual report. Will have annual reports FY2021 on.
- Projections were that we weren’t going to meet 2030 target, will ultimately make 2050 based on strategies. Final report does include both reaching 2030 and 2050 targets. What actions helped close the gap?
 - Skepticism from City Council that NZAP is aggressive enough. CPAC should consider whether it stands behind NZAP or whether we want to weigh in on how Council should adopt and act on NZAP going forward. CDD will do the work to carry plan forward as laid out. If we don’t think it’s aggressive enough, we should say so.
- Our letter was based on the prior version of the plan. It stands until we re-evaluate the revised report.

- Peter has seen final report. We should see it as a framework, collection of actions that roll up into a certain level of reductions. As a framework, it's complex because the problem is complex, and there's a lot of good work there. When we get to specific areas, e.g., BEUDO, we want some changes (mandatory vs. voluntary, speed up actions) that we've opined on already.
- The biggest change is that we're now meeting the 2030 goal, and that's good. What do we have to accomplish between now and 2030 to make that come true? What do we have to achieve in terms of e.g., Massachusetts RPS, electrification of buildings—need to go to modeling and look at key assumptions to make sure we can realistically achieve these goals.
- Seth: working out specific metrics and indicators is part of the implementation work. The model only shows relative impact actions to each other, sense of our trajectory. Need to get better actual data to give more precision than planning document provides.
- Will track actions and impacts better than over first five years.
- Lauren: question re: reporting, tracking, engaging CPAC. Is there a way to make it easier for staff to report to us? We see a lot of report writing—is that taking too many resources vs. implementing the plan?
 - Great point.
- Keith: question relates to charts that show assumptions. What's important is to understand whether they're from recent data vs. old data that may be less accurate.
- Paula: big picture question: now that two things are happening: GHG emissions are going up again; the ability to accurately calculate carbon sequester in soil has increased. It's possible we could do emissions reduction through covering bare ground—how could this be included in calculations? Great deal of potential re: emissions and cooling.
 - John—looked at carbon sequestration re: tree plantings and it's insignificant vs. emissions. Difficult to do in urban area like Cambridge.
- Lyn: Lauren's topic re: creating more work when we don't have the sense of the big picture. CDD did a great job of putting all our climate initiatives in one place—need to put meeting conversations in that context so we can keep track of where things are vs. having too many report outs. Keep CPAC focused, help us manage information.
- Steven: uplift Paula's comments re: trees and plantings. Need to make the space for trees. Even if emissions aren't effectively limited by trees, there are many other good reasons to have them.
 - John: Agreed
- Seth: goal is to move plan forward into implementation. Would be helpful to have CPAC's support for moving forward instead of getting it stuck in the planning process. Showed model underlying NZAP.
 - Did not capture CPAC conversation around the model
 - Concern: energy efficiency isn't going to fully get us to net zero—need to focus on changing energy sources along with decreasing demand. Can't rely on demand going down to get there.
 - This is a high level framework—model suggests false precision. It's more a framework of the universe of activities we need to take—as we implement, we'll see what makes the most difference.

- What is the impact on embodied carbon to do all this replacement of e.g., furnaces and insulation? Not part of the model yet.

7:00 BEUDO Performance Standards

Objective: Seth Federspiel will update the committee on the December 22 City Council Health & Environment Committee public hearing and ideas being raised regarding the proposed BEUDO performance standards.

Update:

- Submitted to City Council in November, scheduled committee hearing in December. Have a new City Council. Outcome was to refer BEUDO back to full City Council in the new term. But what they heard in committee hearing was that they wanted to significantly revise the framework to significantly accelerate zero emission targets from 30 years to 15 years.
- Also discussed whether there should be thresholds or faster reductions from particularly poorly performing buildings? Wanted to establish thresholds for each building type, and would have to reduce faster if over the threshold. 20% by 2025 for average building, more for lower-performing buildings.
- Discussed baseline for new construction—now and net zero construction regs—baseline = where they start, linear requirement to reduce to zero.
- Question: in terms of timing change—is the biggest problem that it goes against expectations of compliance community? Other concerns: technical feasibility. CDD goal—get as far as they can as quickly as they can—worry that they won't be able to enforce this.

7:45 Member Updates

Objective: CPAC members will provide updates on activities and issues relevant to CPAC's work.

Paula: Miyawaki forest planting—have had requests from a number of municipalities and individuals wanting to do it themselves. Incredible interest. Want to do one near a school and do curriculum.
WGBH: Jennifer Francis talk re: Arctic Meltdown: Why does it matter to us? Heather Goldstone conversation.

Lauren Miller: Watching Don't Look Up – satire, hits very close to home. Google clip of Leo DiCaprio losing it on TV.

Election of officers:

- Chair: David Rabkin
- Vice Chair: Steven Nutter
- Secretary: Julie Wormser
- Other nominations: none

Vote on slate: Lauren Miller moved, Lyn Huckabee seconded, unanimous.

7:55 Public Comment

8:00 Adjournment