

City of Cambridge

Climate Protection Action Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2015

City Hall Annex

Attendees: Lauren Miller (Chair), Rosalie Anders, Betsy Boyle, Peter Crawley, Sarah Kennedy, Ted Live, Tom Page, Keren Schlomy; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Guests: Sue Butler, Paula Phipps

(Note: There was not a quorum for this meeting)

Director's Report

- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment being presented March 17th at MIT. Draft document will be availability after presentation is made at MIT. There will be breakout groups after presentation, so CPAC members encouraged to attend and participate in groups. Key question: what would you like to see happen next? Lauren will send reminder to CPAC to attend.
- Net Zero Task Force last week reported its proposed action plan for next 25 years. Going through consultation process before the document gets finalized, so over 6-8 weeks there will be a series of engagements -- Chamber of Commerce, Mass Bio, Kendall Sq Association, general public, USGBC, Labor, housing sector – to get comments. Potentially, something could happen around Earth Day if there's something meaningful identified. Final task meeting after consultation/engagements, then the recommendations go to City Manager. Creating infographic to synthesize main information into one page. Include time at April 9 meeting to discuss.
- MIT CoLab – Urban Heat Island contest completed. Finalists would be invited to attend CPAC and present ideas and get feedback. Five finalists to attend April 9 CPAC meeting.
- Department helping people submit Building Energy Disclosure information by May 1. Have put out list of properties that have to be included, about 400 parcels including over 1,000 buildings. Have contact info about 70% of buildings; working to beef up list. Launched technical assistance help desk to help gather data, will provide four in-person trainings on Portfolio Manager. Purely data reporting, no threshold requirements. But by 2018 department has to analyze data to see if information disclosure is driving improvements.
- Bronwyn helping DPW select consulting team to do building improvement program and set greenhouse gas program.
- Georgetown University Energy Prize accelerating. New staff person starting to get program up and running. Collaborating with Eversource. Engaged with them on developing MOU to gather

data, help with Georgetown prize, energy efficiency programs, renewable programs, etc. Will have all-day charrette with Eversource and IMT will help come up with that MOU.

- Transportation planner hired, will launch safe routes to school program. Starts at Tobin.
- Energy procurement: City's electricity contract up December 1. Mothers Out Front pushing for 100% renewable energy. Talking to MAPC, who want to put out new RFP for community aggregation. Melrose is leader on aggregation, getting about 5% more renewable energy. Cambridge deciding if go in on MAPC, or try to do it on its own. Kendall Sq Ecodistrict getting an RFP ready to do energy study.

CPAC Solar Energy Recommendation

- Recommendation doc available from John Bolduc.
- Five categories: aggregation of off-takers for solar net metering credits; community shared solar; short-term solar PV installation targets and initiatives; PACE; Solar thermal.
- Patrick administration approved \$30M loan program for residential solar. Should start approving applications in spring.
- Tom Page suggested striking language that the City "may not wish to directly aggregate consumers ...". Agreed to replace text with "CPAC recommends that the City supports the strategy of aggregation of net metering off-takers ..."
- Community Shared Solar – CPAC should think about how to actually implement this recommendation; maybe competition, or development of software/app. Just saying it should happen won't make it happen. Should develop top 20 sites and contact owners to educate them about the opportunity. Move this section below the "develop short-term solar PV ..." section, since some of the work that needs to go into community solar will come out of the develop short-term solar activity. Change "Identify and work with owners ..." to "Engage with owners ..."
- Peter: global comment: private sector, once they know the property has potential, will make business case to property owners; don't need City to get involved. City needs to identify owners and disseminate information. Is definition of "community" in "community campaigns" wards/neighborhoods? Or is it just community at large? How do communities form, realistically? Who's part of each group? Re: PACE – any bonds being collateralized for efficiency are interesting to investors; getting higher yields for issuer; so good time to be talking about issuing bonds. Second to last bullet – make clear that it's state legislature that approved the law. Perhaps include some information on sense of urgency around this issue given that 30% tax credit is likely going to be reduced to 10% when the credit expires in 2016.
- Tom: Suggested talking to companies like Next Step Living to do the map scan for potential properties for large installations?
- Rosalie suggested a handbook "So you're thinking about installing solar ..." Addressing obstacles that people face.
- Keren: Develop short-term solar PV – vague language on "It would be useful for the City to develop ..." Should be "The City should develop short-term targets ..." Consider moving first bullet of PACE section to Background; and first bullet of solar thermal to Background.

- Public comment: difficult to differentiate recommendations for city's municipal and for residents and businesses. Clearly delineate where the City is showing the way on actions we're recommending for others.

Committee broke into working groups: Mitigating Climate Change *and* Adapting to Climate Change

Mitigation Group:

Notes from previous discussion: developing district geothermal/steam and reorganization within the city – division/department formation to ensure that climate mitigation is a priority. Example is Portland department of planning and sustainability. Also talked about carbon tax.

Susanne: within the larger recommendation document – mostly about building capacity to gather and analyze data and to build community support. Should look at that existing doc to make sure we still agree with what we already did. We don't have consistent greenhouse gas emission data sources or collection. Need to collaborate with other communities to build capacity to make data available.

Include: Work with other municipalities to create a standard for data reporting that MA DPU needs to enforce for all utilities.

Notes prepared by Betsy Boyle