

City of Cambridge  
CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 10, 2016  
City Hall Annex

**Attendees:** Lauren Miller (chair), Johanna Jobin (vice chair), Olga Faktorovich Allen, Betsy Boyle, Melissa Chan, Thomas Chase, Peter Crawley, Keith Giamportone, Brian Goldberg, Anthony Michetti, Sarah Mandlebaum, Christopher Nielson, Paula Phipps, Quinton Zondervan; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc, Seth Federspiel

**Guests:** Franziska Amacher

ETP Director Report

New City Manager starts on Monday with 4 year contract. Will meet with CPAC in December. Councillor Maher will not run for reelection, will be the new ED for Chamber of Commerce while serving out remainder of his term.

Protected bike facilities prioritized at city council, being asked to create pilot protected facilities. Cambridge Str., Inman to Harvard most likely, but only can be done if one side of parking is removed. Currently no bike facilities on that segment. Also looking at participatory budgeting proposals in Harvard Sq, Brattle Str. Also Mass Ave came up a lot. Figuring out bus and bike in one street. Looking at both temporary and permanent options and everything in between. Talking to experts from San Fran and NYC. There will be a lot going on around this. Parking has always been an issue, so may not be easy. Good that there is momentum behind this.

Kendall Sq. mobility task force working on Grand Junction project. Working with state officials to make progress on that. Taken over from the state, now running it with CIC, moving on a lot of implementations, lot more to see in Spring.

Climate change preparedness and Envision project (JB): Not a lot to report on. Some focus group meetings over the summer. Working on second report on flooding. Dealing with depth interpretation, modeling maps not clear on how deep the flooding will be, particularly important in a Alewife area regarding developability. Getting feedback from focus groups, coordinating that with Envision team (consultants, some overlap, lot of people involved). Feeding preparedness into Envision process. Alewife working group public meeting next week. Climate and Environment working group solicitation is out. There will be a separate climate plan as a sub-plan of Envision. Also a separate document/memorandum for Alewife but not a formal plan document. Zoning proposals would go through Envision. Envision will end 2018 maybe, but Alewife is frontloaded.

Minutes of 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 9/8, and 10/13 approved unanimously!

Net Zero Action Plan Progress Report - Seth Federspiel  
(Switched from December with City Manager meeting)

Introduced the FY16 progress report overview, will continue to work on finalizing detailed written report, will come back in January for feedback, happy to take feedback in between. Finalize and approve it early next year and publicize with CPAC approval/certification.

First year was mostly feasibility studies and solar ready. Also green building ordinance update.

Will have qualitative updates on actions, quantitative updates on actions, and quantitative outcomes overall e.g. GHG inventory. Each action will be addressed in terms of status (Red/Yellow/Green scheme; hashed are in between), barriers, and next steps.

Custom retrofit program - multi family pilot with Eversource to improve MassSave program. Program is finalized and set to kickoff hopefully Jan 2017.

Market based incentives program - feebate example, supposed to be led by universities. Yellow/red. Goal was to complete a study, but it's has been slow going. Initial conversations with Harvard and MIT but no big progress. One option to consider is a simulated feebate based on actual permits.

Height and FAR bonus is yellow, incorporated into Envision, but won't be picked up until late 2017.

Green building ordinance - yellow. Lot of hard work done on this but there is a regulatory barrier because of state building code preemption risk. Amended building code adopted over the summer is much stronger, but only applies to buildings over 100k sq ft. We are asking developers to build to LEED gold version 4 plus 6 energy points. Trying to get around the LEED points issue with ASHRAE. Next step is to consider third-party review. Can we make it a design guideline? Yes, currently it is informally a guideline. Can we make it a formal guideline and track the progress against it while we figure out the requirement? JB: Encourage mini energy modeling to inform the design rather than just a big energy model at the end? Chris Nielson: generally a cost issue, case by case basis. Boston BRA permitting is now requiring energy modeling. JB: Cambridge supposedly does the same.

Net zero municipal construction and renewal of existing buildings. Still defining key terms for net zero ready requirement. Renewal is ahead of schedule because of capital improvement process.

Insulation barrier removal (renovations mostly). Sustainable Compact working on it but falling behind. Figuring out how this would interact with other zoning changes. Funding in FY17 to do a study. Unclear how big a problem this is in general.

Low carbon energy supply study is underway. Green and yellow.

Solar ready requirement report completed. Building code preemption issue. Green and yellow. 3 to 5 mw per year potential. Informal guideline right now, could look at formalizing. Proportion of roof area. Keith: roof capacity compatible with green roof? Don't know.

MOU with Eversource moving along. Green, on track for FY17 adoption. Data requests still outstanding.

Communication strategy. Developing, green. Net zero board game rolled out at Parking Day. Climate and energy dashboard under development. Working on public engagement. CDD hiring communications manager.

Management capacity: green. Advisory committee, Net zero planner (Seth), and this reporting process.

Net zero lab standards working group: yellow, part of sustainability compact. Behind schedule.

Johanna: concerned about delays. How can we help? QZ seconds that. Susanne: we started late because of hiring, regulatory blockage an issue, stakeholders preoccupied with inclusionary zoning and other requirements, a lot of pushback. When to have the conversation?

Keith: Any pilot net zero municipal projects? Yes, king open. Can offsets be used? Yes. But specific standards have not been defined.

Motion to establish a net zero action plan review working group of about 5 people. Approved!

Skip BEUDO.

### City Manager Meeting Prep

Johanna: City manager meeting implications of net zero report?

JB: In the past city manager gives review report and department heads. Maybe do less of that this time? Maybe higher level questions.

Compile and distribute department reports ahead of time.

CM will be briefed on net zero action plan ahead of time.

Ask a big picture question: Cambridge has adopted ambitious climate change and sustainability goals. There is a finite amount of time to accomplish our goals to reduce our community and municipal carbon footprints to near zero by 2050 and to make the city resilient. While Cambridge is a leader on these issues, the indicators we have suggest we are not on track to meet our goals. What is your thinking about how Cambridge could re-frame the challenge and its approach to take our efforts to another level that has a chance to achieve our goals? Johanna: maybe ask about his vision. Betsy/QZ: Framed around federal government expectations, role of municipalities? Peter: Reporting requirements of materiality of sustainability actions? Bond

rating houses are interested and positive but doesn't say very heavily? Susanne: We do report on vulnerability every year. QZ: insurance rates? Susanne: city is self insured, but yes, property value implications.

Barriers from dept. heads?

Send your ideas before Tuesday.

Meeting will be at City Hall, Sullivan Chamber.

### CPAC Officers Election

Nominated: Lauren, Chair and Johanna, Vice-Chair. Voted unanimously.  
No nominees for Secretary.

### Member Updates

QZ: Climate Congress.

Paula: bio4climate ocean conference next weekend.

Keith: USGBC conference soliciting speakers. It's in CPAC Bulletin.

Sarah: Sustainable brands (trade association) new metrics conference will be a week from Tue in Kendall sq.

Johanna: eInc. fundraising event last night, bringing a climate change exhibit from Chicago to Charlestown Partner's Healthcare.

Susanne: Bloomberg \$50 million gift to MOS.

Discussion about implications of presidential elections result.

JB: Many cities working on climate change now, lots of networks.

QZ: How do we address equity? Sarah: Ask CM?

Paula: Curriculum question for CM. Also open space issues. Importance of open space.

Peter: EPA and clean air and water act passed under Nixon.

*Notes by Quinton Zondervan*