

City of Cambridge  
Climate Protection Action Committee

July 8, 2021

Minutes

Present: Tom Chase (acting chair), Trisha Montalbo, Emily Flynn Pesquera, Ted Live, Keith Giamportone, Rosalie Anders, Jerrad Pierce, Peter Crawley, Lyn Huckabee, Julie Wormser; *staff*: John Bolduc, Seth Federspiel

Guests: Ann Stewart, Beth Melofchik, Ethan Bryson, Sarah Hill, Victoria Spies, Rhett Nichols

Minutes

June 10 minutes approved

Director's Report

- Resilient Cambridge Plan was released. Documents, including storymap, are on new webpage at [www.cambridgema.gov/ResilientCambridge](http://www.cambridgema.gov/ResilientCambridge)
- DPW applied a higher albedo or reflectance coating to the Springfield Street Parking Lot as a pilot to see how it holds up over time. The coating has a solar reflectance index of 36 (compared to 5 for new asphalt) on a scale of 100. John took thermal images with a camera and found the parking lot surface was 10 to 20 degrees cooler than streets and new asphalt.
- The City Council approved amendments to the Tree Protection Ordinance which now defines "significant tree" as one that is 6 inches DBH and also modified how tree removals are compensated.
- The 2020 Bicycle Plan has been released and is on the City website.

Microforests

Working with Recreation Department and DPW on establishing Miyawaki microforests or urban forests. First site is the sledding hill at Danehy Park on about 4,000 square feet. Ethan Bryson at the SUGI project testing soil.

Miyawaki forests are not necessarily mini or micro, they can be larger. London example described and how SUGI tells stories of these projects.

Bio4Climate was looking for 2,000 sf and was pleased to have more area to work with.

Peter asked why a park was selected to host the first project. Paula said City vetted about 40 sites and there were few that were able to be implemented soon. Other sites have projects that complicate sites. Paula expects the City will support other projects. Trisha asked about using the Participatory Budget. Paula indicated that the PB program is interested to see Miyawaki method applied to their tree project. Ethan Bryson indicated 1400 trees are being planted. They will sapling or plug size. There is also ground cover. So layers of vegetation are incorporated. Species selection will be worked out with the group,

including consultation with Native American representatives and will account for future climate. New England Wetland is the nursery providing planting stock.

### Net Zero Action Plan Update

Seth Federspiel presented on recommendations from the Net Zero Action Plan Task Force. Aim is to submit updated plan to City Council for adoption in the fall.

Seth reviewed the principles and objectives of the task force.

Emissions are pretty flat since 2012, in spite that significant new development has been constructed. But city must still reduce emissions.

What does science now say we need to achieve, how has policy changed, and what is current technical and economic feasibility of technologies.

Task force of representatives from various sectors met 5 times.

Number of actions is being consolidated. Due in part to finding that some of original actions are not effective, so are being removed. Some actions have been completed like removing barriers to increased insulation. The Engagement and capacity building actions are changed as implementation elements for new set of actions. Some new actions such as the one on embodied carbon have been added.

Actions that have changed, are new, or particularly important:

1.2-BEUDO performance requirements. Council passed resolution in May asking City Manager to submit language by September 23. Staff working on the ordinance proposal with the Law Dept and stakeholders. Tracking development of Boston performance requirements. Language will be shared with stakeholders and CPAC. CPAC can consider its role when the ordinance amendments are submitted to the Council and the public process commences.

2.1-Create Net Zero Targets for New Construction.

2.2-Embodied Carbon

3.22-Onsite Renewable Energy Access. Most potential is on roofs of existing buildings. So how can that potential be unlocked? Community solar and matchmaker service for developers and owners could be useful. This could provide equity benefits. The community solar projects may involve reductions that cannot be claimed by Cambridge because RECs will need to be sold to make the projects financially feasible. Jerrad suggested City tracking these projects to indicate what city has caused to happen.

3.3-Offsite Renewable Energy Access. City would establish criteria for what qualifies and work to leverage the community aggregation program. Peter asked how this aligns with state action. Seth said that state objectives are not fast enough to meet Cambridge goals. But state could accelerate decarbonizing grid at which time Cambridge would not need to push as hard.

4-Local Carbon Fund. Would be modeled on Aggregation 3.0 model.

Next Steps. Staff will finalize implementation plan, engage stakeholders as necessary in August, and submit the final plan to the City Council in September.

Peter suggest CPAC focus on incentivizing voluntary actions, budget for staff and technical support, time of sale/renovation requirements. Seth noted CPAC will continue to be the oversight body for the plan.

Rosalie wondering if we could encourage activists to advocate for specific state actions by identifying what are the priorities for communities. Lyn noted that state agencies need the public to weigh in on their processes.

*Notes by John Bolduc*