

City of Cambridge
Climate Protection Action Committee

Minutes
Thursday January 14, 2010
City Hall Annex

Committee Attendees: David Rabkin (chair), Janet Curtis, Jonathan Abe, Kristin Lewis, Lauren Miller, Mead Wyman, Steve Lanou, Suzanne Shepard, Bill Zamparelli; *Staff:* Rosalie Anders, John Bolduc, Susanne Rasmussen, Owen O’Riordan, Iram Farooq, Sam Lipson

Guests: Paul Kirshen, Tom Page, Marguerite Reynolds, Chris Meio, Floyd Sipe, Lilah Glick, Jackie Cefola

1. Lack of quorum to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2009

2. Report of the ET&P Director

- A. Grants update
 - Energy Block Grant (1.1 million):
 - DOE approved \$250,000 for a community energy efficiency campaign from the energy block grant.
 - Approval of \$30,000 for bike racks.
 - The City's municipal buildings project and community energy efficiency incentives under the energy block grant are pending.
 - Clean Energy Choice Grant (NE Wind Fund Match) (\$58,000 to spend):
 - Approved a study on the feasibility of solar water heaters.
 - Approved purchase of more Big Belly trash compactors.
- B. Stretch Code was adopted by City Council and will go in effect July 1, 2010.
- C. The second session of Climate Emergency Congress will be held Saturday January 23. They are looking for comments on the draft recommendations. It is open to the public.
- D. The CEA is launching a social networking website to help users track how much \$ they would save by taking various actions that lower their carbon footprint and encourage action. Sign up is available at smartercambridge.org.
- E. CDD is holding an electric vehicle roundtable in the 4th week of January per the CPAC interim recommendation.
- F. Cambridge was invited to participate on a state agency team under a National Governors Association/Department of Energy policy academy program that will work on commercial building retrofits and building energy benchmarks.

G. CPAC has received 13 applicants for new members. The interview process is ongoing. Although there are only a few openings, Rosalie is working on a plan to best integrate the skills and enthusiasm of each and every applicant.

3. Climate Change Adaptation: Public Health, Sea Level Rise + Storm water Implications for Cambridge.

A: Global Climate Change and Local Public Health
Sam Lipson, Environmental Health Director, Cambridge Public Health Dept.

An overview of how global causes (increased rainfall, higher CO2 levels, etc) create local effects (i.e. contaminated reservoir, increased ranges and density of disease vectors, etc) that will alter life in Cambridge and the challenges of planning for these changes (i.e. building levees, stockpiling medicines, etc) and adapting to them. Challenges exist at both the level of predicting which public health issues will result from these global causes as well as how to prepare for treating affected citizens.

B: Climate Change - Cambridge Drainage: Combined River and Surge Flooding
Paul Kirshen, Research Leader, Battelle

An overview of how the hydrologic cycle will impact climate change, how climate change will cause sea level rise and increased risk of storm surge flooding, the lack of reliable technical models to predict what the change may be at the local level, and the flexibility required in planning for adaptation to the change. Four websites were recommended for further information on adaptation: (1) ipcc.ch (2) globalchange.gov (3) ucsusa.org (4) mass.gov/dep/public/committee/ccaac.htm

Discussion included the challenges in developing a convincing case for businesses and property owners to invest in adaptation technology, global cultural differences toward adaptation, and the effects that a logic shift from market economics to peasant economics would have on the problem. The secondary and tertiary effects of water were discussed including the effects on the structural integrity of buildings and infrastructure (transportation, communication, and waste storage systems). Also discussed was the effect that climate profile change would have on crop viability and food supply.

4. Next meeting: Focus on climate change adaptation planning and processes.

It was suggested that thought be put into recommendations for process, anticipating perceptions of and reactions to issues, and how to communicate effectively to motivate government, industry, academia, and populace.

Notes prepared by Suzanne Shepard