

Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee Meeting Minutes March 11, 2010

Attendees

Members: David Rabkin (chair), Quinton Zondervan (vice chair), Betsy Boyle, Janet Curtis, Jan Dillon, Keren Schlomy, Lauren Miller, Mead Wyman, Barry Hilts, Steve Lanou, Suzanne Shepard, Bill Trabilcy, Terrence Smith, Bill Zamparelli

Staff: Susanne Rasmussen, Rosalie Anders, John Bolduc, Iram Farooq

Guests: John MacDougall, Ted Live, Tom Page, Marguerite Reynolds, Abigail Tischler, John Pitkin

The meeting opened with the unanimous approval of the February 11 minutes on a motion by Keren Schlomy and a second by Barry Hilts. Barry was introduced as a new member from the Cambridge Health Alliance replacing Musa Pan who has served on the Committee for many years. Barry is the Vice President for Facility and Support Services at the Cambridge Health Alliance.

Climate Change Adaptation – Massachusetts Initiatives

The Committee then heard a presentation by Kathleen Baskin, Director of Water Policy at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs on a Climate Change Adaption Strategy her agency has been working on per a requirement under the Global Warming Solutions Act.

The Act required that EEOA look at water supply and quality, natural resources, infrastructure, transportation and energy generation and distribution. Early on in developing this strategy other areas of study were added including insurance and agriculture. Work was done by five Sector Committees covering Human Health and Environment, Natural Resources and Habitat, Key Infrastructure, Coastal Zones and Oceans and Local Economy. EEOA conducted a number of public meetings last summer to gather information. One major issue they found is that the issues of mitigation and adaptation are frequently confused.

EEOA is in the process of completing the report which Ms. Baskin insisted is not a plan. More information is available from the State website at <http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/committee/ccaac.htm>.

ETP Director's Report

Susanne reported:

- *US DOE Funding Approved* - Funding for four energy efficiency projects submitted by the City of Cambridge has been released by the US DOE. A total of \$1.1 million is allocated to Cambridge. At the February meeting Susanne reported that the

community energy efficiency campaign and installing bike racks had been approved. The Cambridge Energy Alliance will administer the efficiency campaign. The two activities recently approved will provide for municipal building upgrades and incentives for business and residential efficiency upgrades.

- *Clean Energy Choice* – Installation of about 5 kW of PV at the DPW Frazier Building and the Frisoli Youth Center has commenced. The City is working to provide real-time data on these installations through the City website. DPW is also purchasing additional Big Belly solar trash compactors.
- *Green Communities* – The state announced the 2010 Green Communities grant program. To qualify for a grant, the City must first demonstrate that it meets the program's 5 eligibility criteria. Staff is assessing where the City stands. Applications are due in May.
- *Stretch Energy Code* – A session on the commercial energy code was held on February 24 at City Hall Annex. A residential session will be held on May 18 at the Public Safety Building.
- *GoGreen Month* – May is GoGreen Month and the City has begun seeking nominations for the GoGreen Business Awards. The nomination deadline is April 5. The GoGreen Business Award event is scheduled for May 25 at the City Hall Annex.
- *Electric Vehicles* – Staff is continuing internal discussions on electric vehicles including next steps and strategies.
- *NSTAR Green* – NSTAR has filed a petition to increase NSTAR Green rates.
- *Sustainable Business Leadership Program* – 10 businesses have completed the requirements to be named a Sustainable Business and the Sustainable Business Leadership Program graduation is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on April 1 at the City Hall Annex.
- *Parking Strategies* – Following a recommendation by the CPAC Transportation Subcommittee internal discussions have begun regarding parking strategies that will address climate change issues.
- *Next Meeting* – City Manager Robert Healy and Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi are planning to attend the next CPAC meeting scheduled for April 8, 2010. Susanne reported that they have reviewed the CPAC interim report. Several people suggested a discussion about adaptation strategies. David Rabkin said that he and Quinton will work with City Staff on the agenda.

Climate Emergency Congress -- Update

Quinton: The Climate Emergency Congress met on March 6 and adopted three recommendations. To the community as a whole the Congress resolved to form a Climate Emergency Coordination Group. The Congress adopted general recommendations for the City Council including setting annual and long-term goals to measure and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, that the City be a leader in addressing climate change issues based on results, that the City establish a partnership for an awareness campaign, and that robust government structures be in place to address climate changes. The third resolution identifies specific ideas and suggestions including amending the City Council goals to address climate change issues, redirecting the CPAC mission, establishing the CERB to focus on this emergency and impacts and restructuring City staffing/administration responsibilities specific to climate change issues. Quinton

noted that overall implementation is up to the City he also said that the report includes 24 recommendations from ideas generated by participants.

David asked about a fall meeting of the Climate Congress and what the focus of that meeting would be. Quinton said that is unclear.

Discussion on Draft CPAC Recommendations on Climate Change Adaptation

John reported that a purpose statement has been added. None of the findings have been changed but some details have been changed. The possible Charles River Dam implications are identified as the view of one scientist. Recommendations have been shortened and the focus is vulnerability recommendations. CPAC will monitor best practices at the local government level.

John was asked to restate the recommendations which are:

- Conduct a vulnerability assessment
- Take easy actions based on that assessment
- CPAC will monitor best practices

A question was asked about dealing with adaptation or mitigation and John responded that the recommendations make clear that adaptation and mitigation go hand-in-hand. Additional comments were requested to be sent to John, David, Rosalie and/or Quinton by March 18, 2010.

Next Meeting

Quinton asked if the City Manager would be presenting his thoughts or if this would be a free form conversation?

Susanne said that City staff would work with John and Quinton on a structure. She said the session needs a framework.

Betsy suggested we get an agenda together sooner rather than later.

Jan asked about looking at things that had been put aside like some of the work done by the Building Energy Subcommittee.

Barry asked about the Climate Congress recommendations and whether the City Manager had received these recommendations. Susanne responded that the Climate Congress reports to the City council and the Manager will address those recommendations at the Council's request. John Pitkin then provided a brief summary on how the Climate Congress was formed from a City Council action.

A suggestion was made that the agenda should be planned working closely with the City Manager.

Several people asked whether the City Manager had read the interim report and whether he was aware of the adaptation report. Susanne reported that the recommendations will serve as a briefing document. A question was asked whether the Department of Public Work would be involved in the April 8 meeting and Susanne reported that the Commissioner has been invited.

David asked what people hoped would come from the meeting? Betsy said that the meeting should clarify the CPAC mission and expectations. Steve said that this should help renew and optimize the Committee's engagement with the Manager. David said he hopes this will be the first but not the last time the Manager meets with CPAC. Keren

said that she feels that the CPAC work goes into a black hole and would like to know where he would like to prioritize CPAC work. Susanne said that staff is working on doing a better job at providing feedback on internal actions being taken on CPAC recommendations. Keren suggested that the staff clearly show how actions align with recommendations and Susanne said that would be a good idea in the Director's Report.

A question was asked whether the Committee had approved the Adaptation recommendations and David responded that we have not and that comments would be received up to March 18.

Rosalie urged everyone to be on time for the April meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Notes prepared by Terrence Smith