

City of Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

Meeting Notes, July 15, 2010

Members present: David Rabkin (chair), Quinton Zondervan (vice chair), Barry Hilts, Jackie Cefola, James Elsicar, Janet Curtis, Jon Abe, Kat Potter, Kathy Araujo, Keren Schlomy, Lilah Glick, Marguerite Reynolds, Mead Wyman, Suzanne Shepard

Staff present: Susanne Rasmussen, Rosalie Anders, John Bolduc, Bronwyn Cooke

Guests: Emma Heffern, Victoria Wolff, Joanna Herlihy, Joanna Barth, John Pitkin

1. Approval of Minutes for CPAC meetings on May 13, 2010 and June 10, 2010
2. Report from the Environmental and Transportation Planning Division
 - Green Communities Grant Program allocation of \$283,774 is confirmed
 - Awarded Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant to provide subsidy for taxi owners to convert to hybrid vehicles
 - 20 hybrid taxis to date
 - 18 more to be converted to hybrid with this grant
 - Stretch Energy Code in effect as of July 1, 2010
 - Completing EPA's Climate Showcase Community grant due July 26th with the request for funding to include:
 - Concept development of a carbon offset fund for Cambridge-based projects
 - Tiered system for verification
 - Increased visibility for local efforts
 - Green leases
 - Corporate Action Councils
 - Municipal Sustainability Standards
 - Change in leadership: Susan Glazer is Acting Assistant City Manager for Community Development
 - Federal Housing Finance Agency announced stop to property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing for residential projects
 - MA is proceeding with support for PACE legislation as part of Municipal Relief Bill
 - The City Manager will file a proposal at City Council's August 2nd meeting to increase the resident parking permit fee from \$8 to \$20 starting January 1, 2011 and \$25 starting January 1, 2013. The proposal would also broaden language of the Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance to allow revenue from residential parking permit fees to be applied to other climate change mitigation strategies – beyond exclusively sustainable transportation
 - An estimated 40,000 residential parking permits are issued annually
 - The proposal would generate \$480,000 additional revenue in 2011 if adopted
 - Discussion pending about the proposal's potential impact on car ownership and economic equity

- Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA) is now actively canvassing to reach out to Cambridge-based businesses
 - 40 audit requests thus far
 - Intention to contact 1,000 businesses and complete 150 energy efficiency audits
 - Also partnering with NSTAR for pilot project to offer free audit and implementation services to businesses
 - Three staff from the City of Cambridge will join 3 experts in attending the Institute for Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy on Adaptation and Resilience in September
 - Cambridge is moving to residential single stream recycling – time will be allocated for discussion during CPAC’s September meeting
 - New job listing for School Sustainability Project Manager
3. Green Building Zoning Amendments – Comment letter approved with suggested edits
- Discussion about reference to US Green Building Council’s LEED standard and LEED’s efficacy in reducing GHG emissions – request to delete reference to LEED
 - Third bullet, request to specify that buildings are responsible for approximately 80% of GHG emissions - far above state average of 55% - with citation of the City’s 2003 GHG emissions inventory; request to write “...the City needs to both retrofit existing building stock and construct efficient new buildings.”
4. Draft State Climate Implementation Plan – letter approved with qualification that edits will be made based on discussion and the condition that if 2 CPAC members object by email, the letter will be tabled for further review
- Comments officially due July 15th however CPAC’s comments will be considered if submitted in near term
 - Suggestion to have 3 clear “asks” and have comments follow
 - Set at X%
 - Higher soft target
 - Community involvement
 - Change requested “...existing policies should (or would) yield 19%...”
5. Fall newsletter
- Very constructive meeting of CPAC’s City Manager Newsletter Subcommittee regarding theme and format
 - Next step to draft a detailed outline with projected deadlines for review by CPAC
6. Measurement and Goals Discussion
- Interim recommendations – CPAC’s subcommittee on measurement and goals tried to disaggregate the GHG emissions inventory data to focus on specific strategies
 - At the Climate Emergency Congress measurement emerged as major issue
 - At the Mayor’s meeting a request was made for CPAC to identify new metrics that could be measured annually and reported on regular cycle
 - ICLEI Protocol
 - ICLEI is unique in providing community-wide inventory
 - Refer to CPAC Metrics Presentation handout

- Discussion – what is the goal for use of metrics?
 - Measures used for internal use, for communication, to encourage other localities to adopt climate change mitigation strategies, to establish future goals, to measure impact of current state of climate change
 - Discussion – are there other measures that should be included?
 - Usage trends, e.g., annual electricity usage
 - Particulates, air quality
 - Growth
 - Total emissions, per square foot and per capita: need for both
 - Rainfall, temperature and other indicators of current state – related to adaptation
 - Community engagement, e.g., Zipcar members, audit requests
 - Other measures, e.g., airline flights
 - Waste Stream measurement, e.g., composition and % organic
 - Switch for fuel usage switching information, oil to natural gas
 - For commercial operations, is an inventory being done and reported?
 - Other data for vehicle miles travelled (VMT), e.g., how many miles driven in Cambridge by cars registered in Cambridge; also how many miles driven by cars commuting to Cambridge
 - Discussion - Other
 - Suggestion to have annual survey of residents to capture new data
 - Control variables – discussion about importance
 - Challenge with available information, e.g., NSTAR’s data and inability to match data from City Assessor’s office
 - How much disaggregation should be done?
 - Should we measure things we can’t control, e.g., airline flights
 - What are goals and policy implications?
 - Request for new members to join this subcommittee
7. Next Meeting – Ideas to move Measurement and Goals discussion forward
- Create a process roadmap for City and decide which activities CPAC has resources to accomplish and where additional resources from City can be provided
 - Bring in outside expertise
 - Explore specific measures and discuss if they should be adopted
 - What are potential measures and determine magnitude of the factors involved
8. Scheduling of September meeting - delayed
9. Adjournment

Notes taken by Jackie Cefola