

City of Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee

MEETING MINUTES- October 14, 2010

Committee Members in attendance: David Rabkin, Quinton Zondervan, Marguerite Reynolds, Jackie Cefola, Suzanne Shepard, Tom Page, Lauren Miller, Janet Curtis.

City Staff: John Bolduc, Susanne Rasmussen, and Rosalie Anders.

NO QUORUM.

Minutes

September minutes were not approved.

Election of Officers

D. Rabkin, Q. Zondervan, and B. Boyle all indicated a willingness to serve another year as officers. Due to lack of a quorum, the election was not held. David stated that he would be chair of the Council for one more term, not two.

E&TP Director's Report

Susanne Rasmussen provided a City update:

- 30 people attended the stretch energy code training for residential projects held on October 6th.
- Two city staff are planning to attend the building codes vote in North Carolina.
- Parking permit fee – City Council is to vote on the proposed increase Monday, 10/18.
- New CEA Community Outreach Manager has been hired; expected to start soon.
- Danehy Park is being assessed for its potential for a wind turbine. MIT students are working with the Electrical Department to test wind speeds for six months. Measurement equipment will be installed on light poles around the park. Testing is expected to commence in November.
- John, Susanne, and City Engineer Owen O’Riordan attended climate adaptation leadership training sponsored by the Institute for Sustainable Communities. The City also recruited the environmental planning director for MAPC, Martin Pillsbury, and Kathy Baskin, EOEEA Water Policy Director, to participate.
- Climate Emergency Congress organizers are holding a forum on 10/26 to discuss what should be done at the local level to follow up on the Congress and the collapse of federal legislation.
- November 3 is the last community meeting for the Western Ave design – raised bike lane is a part of the design.

Quinton Z. raised the question of whether the City has a position on the Silver Maple forest issue in Belmont? Ellen Mass of the Friends of Alewife Reservation addressed the proposed development plans for the property and efforts to prevent development. A court decision is pending on the appeal of the previous state approvals under the Wetlands Protection Act.

Susanne responded the City Council has issued a policy order that City departments withhold Cambridge permits that may be needed for the project. City departments will need to assess their legal authority to do so.

Subcommittee Reports

1. Metrics Subcommittee

John Bolduc provided a spreadsheet, which out-lined goals.

David Rabkin led discussion about goals...

- Examine contribution of other GHGs and not just focus on carbon, particularly methane (food waste)
- Solicit input from the public... find new venues – educational mechanism
- Develop an “awareness goal” – moving residents to tipping point...
- Develop municipal goals specific to city operations

2. Report Development

Rosalie Anders provided update on report subcommittee meeting/led discussion

- Provided notes from that meeting (handout)
 - Create “the story” – approach as a narrative – describe where City was/started in 2002
 - Maximum 10-20 page report
 - Bolster website with more information – potential video?
 - Do not start report with: “We did not meet the goal...”
 - Highlight lessons learned – goal is a moving target or perhaps we set the wrong goal?
 - Stated goals not achieved but LOTS of accomplishments
 - How will report be distributed?

Next Meeting

CPAC attendance NEEDS IMPROVEMENT! – encourage members to attend.

Suggestion: Invite more speakers.

Next meeting will be third week of November as the second Thursday is Veteran’s Day. Meeting likely to be held on November 18.

Adjourn.

Notes taken by Janet Curtis