

City of Cambridge
Climate Protection Action Committee

January 10, 2013
City Hall Annex

Minutes

Attendees: Quinton Zondervan (chair), Milton Bevington, Carri Boiselle, Peter Crawley, Janet Curtis, Kyle Greaves, Robyn Tsukayama, Barry Hilts, Lyn Huckabee, Steve Lanou, Ted Live, Lauren Miller, David Rabkin, Marguerite Reynolds, Keren Schlomy, Terrence Smith, Scott Wood; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, John Bolduc

Guests: Malcolm Bliss, Kristen von Hoffmann, Kurt Tramposch, Paula Phipps, John Pitkin, Dorothea von Herder

ETP Director's Report:

- Looking into changing the bike zoning
 - Currently 1 bike space for every 10 car spaces
 - Trying to increase number of bikes spaces
- Hubway Bike share will be back in March, looking at making it a year round program
 - Conducting a Benchmark study, Montreal has year round stations
 - Will also purchase more bike share stations
- Included a public message about looking out for bikers on city water bills
 - Trying to increase awareness of bikers and biker safety
- Winter farmers market is open
 - <http://www.cambridgewinterfarmersmarket.com/>
- Solar map popular w/ Next step living
 - <http://www.cambridgema.gov/solar/>
- The City purchased a large amount of smart strips with EECBG funds
 - Looking at doing a survey targeted towards renters to distribute, more information to come

Cambridge Hazard Mitigation Plan & MAPC Regional Adaptation Strategy:

Barry Keppard, Regional Planner (MAPC)

Background:

- Multi hazard mitigation plan needed in order to be eligible for FEMA disaster grants
- MAPC developing 8 plans for Boston area communities
- Content for report is focusing on 6 key areas:
 - Facilities mapping, Hazard risk, etc.
- Hazard Plans are updated every 5 years
- Regional plan "Metro Future 2007" that MPAC is working from covers 101 cities/towns totaling 3 million people and includes 32 coastal cities/towns
- Project Scope for 1 year (July 2012-June 2013)
- Working with Tellus Institute on adaptation strategy
- Grant allows for adaptation plans and many cities are taking advantage of this and expanding the scope of the project

- General Challenges with Hazard Mitigation Planning
 - Back casting, trying to build in past information while leaving room for long term changes
 - Addressing the following questions:
 - Where are the gaps?
 - What actions reduce vulnerability?
 - What are the plans and priorities?
- Trying to address climate change concerns
 - Sea level rise 1 ft. since 1920
 - 100 yr flood projections for Boston, completed by Kirshen and Douglas at Umass
 - NECIA 2007 data
- Vulnerability assessment includes the following areas:
 - Human health & welfare
 - Coastal
 - Natural resource habitat
 - Built environmental infrastructure
 - Local economy and government
 - Utilizing the Boston Vulnerability Report as a Model
- How Vulnerability is being assessed:
 - Exposure + sensitivity + potential impact + adaptive capacity = vulnerability rating

Human health	Increased storm intensity	Economic stratification
Transportation	Air Quality (i.e. Humidity, Asthma, Pollen)	Stress on Public infrastructure (i.e. hospitals)
Water (i.e. Red Tide, Erosion, flooding)	Agriculture (i.e. Vector borne illness)	Decreased sediment supplies (beaches)
Vulnerable populations (i.e. Heat related mortality)	Preparedness and planning	Government resource needs

Questions from Members:

1. What roles do schools play? Schools are mapped in with facilities
2. How are utilities involved? As much as possible, but they don't always participate
3. Are their efforts for Regional coordination? Yes, MPAC is also working on Cambridge, Somerville, Medford, and Boston
4. Are plans public info? Hard copies are with each city, public information such as flooding maps are on websites, but the actual report for each city is not on a public website. Citizens have to go to each city's office to request to view the Hard Copy.
5. The MAPC study is on a faster track than Cambridge's Vulnerability Assessment, what information will be shared between projects? Projects are coordinating and sharing with each other but they are still separate.
6. How to is the private sector being informed about this planning and report?
7. Is MAPC looking into the Transition town movement in the UK (<http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>)?
8. How is MAPC working with the Insurance industry to prepare for disasters? MAPC is working with the insurance industry and the insurance industry is also looking into how to better prepare for climate change.

9. What will happen once the report is complete? The end process is that the strategy will be adopted and a draft of the report will be available to the public. MAPC will also help with regional implementation of the plans to keep with regional decision making

Cambridge Vulnerability Assessment update:

Background:

- Early stages of project, two phases to project (Vulnerability Assessment, then preparedness plan)
- \$300,000 budget for total project
- Consultant team led by Kleinfelder
- Technical Advisory Committee – 16 members representing industries and stakeholders (i.e. Nstar, Verizon, MBTA, transportation, health alliance, residents)
- Expert Advisory Panel – leveraging professors and experts at Harvard, MIT, BU, Union of Concerned Scientists, to ensure best technical approach and build creditability of plan
- Also working with The Army Core of Engineers on assessing urban forest vulnerability

- Phase One Vulnerability Assessment
 - Technical exercise, to be completed at the end of 2013
 - Looking at infrastructure, populations, public health and economy
 - Goal is to Identify assets and populations with higher vulnerability which will lead to identifying priorities to focus on in plan
 - Climate projections will be researched for 2030 and 2070
 - Kathrine Hayhoe, ATMOS Research is developing the projections
 - Will complete a hydrology analysis (flooding estimates) and use GIS (buildings, people, assets) to evaluate impacts
 - Public health analysis with help from Patrick Kinney at Columbia (<http://www.earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/2348>), temperature and heat stress, air pollution, vector borne (west Nile, EEE), capacity of public health system to respond
 - Economic impacts (being done by Catalysis Adaptation Partners, a firm in Portland, Maine), property damage, tax revenue, business activity, monetary impacts
 - Rating exercise assets verse population of people, degree to which a building or system will be impacted, rated on sensitivity and adaptive capacity
 - Red line and MBTA evaluation
 - MassDOT working on climate change reports and working with other states to coordinate
 - Will offer at least 3 public meetings for the community and have them contribute to assessment and will make information public via website
 - Will hold meetings as open forums but some secure industry information (commercial development, etc.) will still be closed
 - Kickoff meeting was on December 18, 2012 with the Technical Advisory committee
 - February 27, 2013 first public meeting
 - Will be at the senior center

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Robyn Tsukayama

- More details to be posted at <http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Climate/climatechangeresilianceandadaptation.aspx>

Question:

1. Should there be a standard for vulnerability studies? Will we be able to compare to Boston or other cities? Currently there is no standard

Prepared by Robyn Tsukayama