

# City of Cambridge

## Climate Protection Action Committee

### Meeting Minutes Thursday February 14, 2013

**Attendance:** Quinton Zondervan (chair), Jackie Cefola (vice chair), Milton Bevington (secretary), Karen Schlomy, Betsy Boyle, Tom Page, Sarah Hill, Jan Dillon, Marguerite Reynolds, Lyn Huckabee, Terrence Smith, Jennifer Stacy, Susy Jones (in for Lanou), Johanna Jobin, Ted Live; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, John Bolduc, Bronwyn Cooke

**Guests:** Paula Phipps, Sue Butler

#### ***Approval of Minutes January 10, 2013 & December 13, 2012***

- Meeting minutes approved – with minor corrections

#### ***Report of the E&TP Director***

- HEET launching solar community challenge (based on “solarize” model) focusing on 1-3 story buildings. They have partnered with Next Step Living to target buildings with excellent solar potential. The potential exists for 2,300 addresses and they ultimately want 115-130 installations. The pilot runs from April 1- Aug 31. The potential output is estimated between 500kw and 1MW. They plan to tie into whatever incentives are available and expect to install at \$4.25/W. They are using Trina 245PV modules but will give customers the option to upgrade. They have a few questions but they are working on marketing the program throughout the city.
- The lessons learned report about the Cambridge Energy Alliance has been released by Navigant. The study was primarily financed by the investors for the foundation.
- A new version of the solar map tool will come out in mid-March.
- DOER SunShot update – The grant financed a solar PV permitting guide (easy how-to) that will be posted on the inspectional services and community development websites. The inspectional services new online permitting system, called Energov, goes live Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. This will give us the ability to track solar installations, and LEED and HERS rated buildings. The grant also funded 2 consultant studies - solar PV guides for condos and MFs – available online. Finally, it funded a feasibility study on community shared solar housed on municipal buildings – no decision has been made about whether to do it.
- Hubway will be on the ground on again around March 1 unless there is snow on the ground. This year, a Porter Square station will be added.
- Recently, the city council has taken up the issue of municipal aggregation. The City is currently working on a feasibility study. We should expect a great deal of discussion about how to structure it.

- K2C2 (Kendall Square Central Square) zoning is in full swing. The zoning language would require for new construction LEED Gold ratings, no minimum parking standards, disclosure and aggressive TDM (transportation management), and a feasibility study to connect to district steam system. You can find information on the community development website – ongoing studies section.
- Vulnerability assessment – The public hearing was cancelled for February 27<sup>th</sup>. Instead, the City is going to engage staff to deploy to community meetings to get more in depth feedback. There will be larger public meetings later in the process. The technical/expert advisory meeting will be held in open forum.
- Introduction of the new sustainability planner (Bronwyn Cooke) who is responsible for greenhouse gas inventory, ecodistrict initiative.

### ***Planning for Transportation Mode Shift - Stephanie Groll, Parking and Transportation Demand Manager***

- The Globe ran an article over the summer about planning initiatives in the Kendall Square area that argued traffic was declining even with a large amount of development. They subsequently ran a follow up editorial promising that new development doesn't necessarily mean new drivers. We have good reason to believe average VMT is declining.
- We saw data about how Cambridge residents commute out of the city, how people commute to work to the city and a Cambridgeport sample of all trips.
- Currently used strategies/programs
  - Infrastructure improvements – cycle tracks, exclusive bus lanes
  - Policies – clear directive from city council to do mode shift work. CPAC, Bike, Pedestrian, and Transit Committees formed. PTDM (Parking and Transportation Demand Management) ordinance under Clean Air Act – triggers if owner wants more parking on their site. City has an enforcement provision. This decreased VMT by 24%.
  - Outreach – CitySmart. Focused on the neighborhoods of Cambridgeport, North Cambridge, East Cambridge. After the pilot, the program went city wide. They put great effort into minimizing the municipal feel of the marketing materials. Expect fun new campaigns in March.
  - Status update on 2002 plan.
- Potential for change update.
  - We need a game changer for carpooling. We can make biking one of our major uptake strategies.
  - We can focus on expanding transit.
  - We can add more mix-used zoning.
  - Additional student-centric transportation.
  - Follow up with the biking committee about additional improvements.
  - Some talk of parking policy.

### ***Recommendations for Municipal Building Energy***

- We need to address energy performance more aggressively.
- Should we recommend city undertake performance contracting? City has chosen not to use it as a strategy because they don't want to share in the benefit. Milton wants to help draft the language to explore the possibility of performance contracting under the assumption that, if the contract is drafted correctly, the city can avoid some of its anticipated pitfalls.
- We've talked about rating buildings. Why don't we have a lead by example policy?
- Once we have a GHG inventory, we want to aim to make reductions
- Add assessment and disclose. Not sure about establishing a performance standard.

Vote on the recommendations with edits – unanimously approved.

### ***Recommendations on Plastic Bag Ordinance***

- A proposed ordinance is before the city council.
- CPAC is warning council through the City Manager about the emissions risk of the ban – recommending a fee on paper bags and minimum amount of post-consumer recycled content
- The ordinance has a lot of momentum.
- Our recommendation doesn't take a position on the ordinance itself.
- Bevington doesn't think this is an area of competency of CPAC and that we don't have enough evidence to decide.
- Added information also including biodegradable plastic bags
- Vote – approved with one abstention (Bevington).

### ***Upcoming Meetings***

- Add a business sustainability topic.
- Geoengineering is a bit out of our purview but we can take a position on it. Move topic down in the order
- Aim to have vulnerability assessment/adaptation topic in April; invite environmental groups as part of outreach effort.
- Move up discussion of CPAC goals and objectives.
- Send additional recommendations to Bolduc.

### ***Meeting adjourned***

*Notes by Lyn Huckabee*