

City of Cambridge
CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 11, 2013
City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway

Minutes

Members Attending: Quinton Zondervan (chair); Jackie Cefola (vice chair); Betsy Boyle; Marguerite Reynolds; Janet Curtis; Jennifer Stacy; Johanna Jobin; Lauren Miller; Steve Lanou; Suzanne Shepard; Ted Live; Thomas Fraley; Scott Wood; Barry Hilts; Dave Rabkin; Tom Page; Sarah Hill; *staff:* Bronwyn Cooke; John Bolduc

Guests: Kate Bowditch, Charles River Watershed Assn; Audrey Schulman, HEET; Ed Wall & Sue Butler, Sierra Club/Greater Boston Chapter; Melissa Ludtke, Sprouts of Hope; Minka vanBeuzekom, Cambridge City Council, Mystic River Watershed Association

New business

Cambridge Solar Challenge: Audrey Schulman (HEET). Asked committee members and attendees to consider installing residential solar PV systems to support this program for reduced costs. Left cards for more information. HEETma.com

Cambridge Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

Objective: Presentation and discussion with local environmental/sustainability organizations on the City's project. The aim is to make the organizations aware of the project and solicit early feedback. This meeting is part of a broader effort to communicate and engage the community on the vulnerability assessment.

Slides presented by and available from John Bolduc.

- Initiative is underway to engage community groups and members to solicit feedback for the Vulnerability assessment. Today's meeting is to begin this initiative.
- John reviewed climate change impacts in Cambridge, including:
 - Temperature rise
 - Flooding
 - Extreme weather
 - Sea level rise
 - Health implications
 - Social implications
- CPAC acting to advance mitigation of greenhouse gases and planning ahead for climate change.
- Timing: Phase 1: vulnerability and risk assessment execution. 2013-2014. Public involvement and final report development
- Timing Phase 2: preparing for climate change: 2014-2015.
- Expert Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees formed and active.
- www.cambridgema.gov/climateprep
 - Take survey
 - Review documents
 - Follow progress
 - Facebook and Twitter
- Flyer on assessment was handed out.

- Community questionnaire handed out for review and completing.
- Discussion topics:
 - Economic justice
 - Engaging the arts community in this work to develop a visual narrative
- Sierra Club comments
 - Put up a billboard showing changes of climate to make understandable
 - Use language in effort that resonates with specific communities and addresses their real needs and interests
- Sue Butler comments
 - Address split incentives for energy efficiency in rental units
 - Renewable energy systems is an attractive feature in rental units
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- Quinton Zondervan, Green Cambridge
 - Working on climate change issues at the community level.
 - Active in anti-fossil fuel efforts
 - Supportive of renewable power systems by connecting with local experiences
- Kate Bowditch, Charles River Watershed Association
 - Issues to address should include: water infrastructure, storm water systems, look at regional issues and collaboration, e.g. Charles River dam. Groundwater levels in Cambridge, flood management, Charles River algae blooms, protecting river cleanup efforts, planned street flooding and social justice issues.
- Minka VB: Mystic River Watershed Association.
 - Need to consider Earhart Dam conditions, etc.
- Discussion:
 - Planning effort for Charles River dam upgrades to prevent flooding not evident.
 - Flooding vulnerability of the MBTA system is important and possibly not being studied extensively
 - Assessment process is just beginning. All attendees will be added to the email list for the assessment.

Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2013

John circulated the minutes from the last meeting for review and vote. Voted affirmative to approve the minutes from March 14 2013 meeting.

CPAC Recommendation on Climate Change in the Public School Curriculum

Objective: Review and consider for approval recommendations to the City Manager on supporting integration of climate change in the public school curriculum.

David Rabkin comment: strengthen language about curricular standards for climate change. Focus more on figuring out best practices and seek out good examples and expertise on curriculum development on climate change. David has suggested these changes to the document.

Discussion:

- Suggest schools seek outside expertise on best practices, not only informally.
- Add sentence about encouraging "implementation" of best practices, not only identifying them.
- Add sentence about need for promoting better public awareness of climate change issues.
- Consider requesting the School Department to come to CPAC to share with us what they are doing for curricular development, to inform our efforts.
- Tone down "doom and gloom" in document and make more inspiring in tone for innovation, excellence, leadership, etc.
- Consider adding a cover letter to set context and purpose of recommendations.
- Send additional comments to David Rabkin who will continue to edit.

Adjournment: 7:45PM

Notes by Steven Lanou, 4-11-2013