

CPAC Meeting Minutes: August 13, 2009

In attendance: David Rabkin (chair), Gordon Reynolds, Janet Curtis, Kat Potter, Keren Schlomy, Lauren Miller, Musa Pam, Steve Lanou, Terrence Smith, Bill Zamparelli, Jennifer Jones, Mitch Hunter

Guests: James Hannon, John Pitkin, Jamie Leef, Heather Henriksen

General Business

David Rabkin motioned to delay approval of the June 2009 meeting minutes until the next CPAC meeting.

Report of the ET&P Director

John Bolduc provided a review of the following grant submittals –

1. EC Grant, US Department of Energy:

City submitted grant application and requested \$1.1 million to be spent on residential and municipal energy efficiency programs. Approximately 2/3rds of money granted would be spent on municipal building energy efficiency. The city is expected to hear back from the DoE in Oct.

2. Clean Cities Grant, US DoE Grant:

Grant focused on purchasing advanced technology vehicles. City submitted grant application requesting \$676,000 for the purchased of 6 plug-in hybrid school busses, 4 hybrid police cruisers, and 4 other hybrid sedans.

3. EPA Showcase Communities:

\$500 k grant, City submitted with plans to use 2/3rds of funds to expand the Cambridge Energy Alliance program and the remainder of granted moneys to be used to expand the GreenSense Program (internal city employee energy efficiency program) and on retro-commissioning studies.

John provided a review of the *Green Building Task Force*. The task force has completed recommendations for private development within the city and has completed a zoning amendment to allow wind turbines. A zoning proposal will be submitted this Fall to the City Council.

John stated that the city will continue to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to offset 10% of the city's emissions from electricity use.

Rosalie Anders provided an update on the *City Smart program*, which is in the pilot stages and encourages residents to use alternative means of transportation. Kits were distributed to the Cambridgeport neighborhood. Survey to be completed this Fall to assess results. Goal – 10-15% reduction in car transportation.

Rosalie stated that agreements to a regional bike sharing program (similar to that in Montreal) are underway involving the cities of Boston, Cambridge and Somerville.

Rosalie stated that through the Cambridge summer student intern program students in the sustainability track completed a 'Green Living' tips video. The program is seeking local television to broadcast the video.

Election of Officers at September Meeting

David Rabkin announced that Brian Reich will be resigning as Vice Chair as he has plans to move out of the area. Brian will continue to work on some of the communications and engagement agenda.

David stated that officer elections will be held in September. Nominations should be sent to David before the next meeting.

Green Communities Act Discussion

John Bolduc provided an overview of the requirements for funding under the Green Communities Act administered by the Mass. Department of Energy Resources. \$10 million, total will be distributed to MA communities that meet the requirements to boost energy efficiency and renewable energy in the commonwealth. There are 5 eligibility criteria.

- City could easily meet the alternative energy zoning requirement, since as-of-right zoning is in place for alternative energy R&D uses.

- City could easily meet requirement to expedite bldg permits for renewable/alternative energy facilities by issuing a written policy about permits being issued within 1 year for as-of-right alternative energy projects.

- Baseline inventories exist; City needs to determine if the 20% absolute energy reduction over 5-years is financially and technically feasible.

- A Green Fleet purchasing plan already exists; the City needs to complete an inventory of vehicles and assess whether all new vehicles could meet the fuel efficiency standards required by the Green Communities program.

- The Act requires that recipient communities adopt the *Stretch Energy Code*, or more stringent energy efficiency codes for all commercial buildings and residential buildings with >3,000 SF. The stretch code is 20% more stringent than current code and will be adopted state-wide in 2012.

- Much discussion on the pros and cons of the Stretch Energy Code ensued.

Terry stated that the stretch code may hinder renovation of existing buildings – which contribute to a large proportion of the city's total GHG emissions. Janet stated that much thought on the ease of the HERS rating by the DoE – and compliance of the code can be met without a PE/HERS certified professional. David Rabkin motioned to extend discussion of the Stretch Code to the next CPAC meeting.

Measurement & Goals Committee Update (David Rabkin)

The committee currently is in need of a leader. Group is working towards understanding matching census and utility data. Gordon suggested looking at recent building permit and the impact on these buildings if the Stretch Code was adopted.

Communication & Engagement Committee Update (Rosalie)

The progress of City Sense was discussed earlier in meeting. Rosalie stated that the committee is reading research on how to influence behavioral change. The group is currently in need of a group leader.

Building Energy Committee Update

Jon provided a review of ASHRAE and Energy Star Labeling for commercial buildings and HERS and Energy Star ratings for residential buildings. Jon requested that Energy Labeling be an item on the September CPAC meeting agenda.

David made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with no one opposed.