

## Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2010

### Attendees

*Members:* David Rabkin (chair), Quinton Zondervan (vice chair), Betsy Boyle, Janet Curtis, John Francis, Jon Abe, Kat Potter, Keren Schlomy, Lauren Miller, Mead Wyman, Mitch Hunter, Barry Hilts, Steve Lanou, Suzanne Shepard, Bill Trabilcy

*Staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Rosalie Anders, John Bolduc, Iram Farooq

*Guests:* Lilah Glick, Juliet Simpson, Missy Stults, Ona Ferguson

### ETP Director's Report

Susanne reported:

- *Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant* - Funding for two of four energy efficiency projects submitted by the City of Cambridge has been released by the US DOE. A total of \$1.1 million is allocated to Cambridge. Approved projects are the community energy efficiency campaign and installing bike racks. The Cambridge Energy Alliance will administer the efficiency campaign. The two activities awaiting approval will provide for municipal building upgrades and incentives for business and residential efficiency upgrades. *Clean Energy Choice* – Water Department has kicked off its solar feasibility study; CDM is the consultant. Under previous funding, installation of about 5 kW of PV at the DPW Frazier Building and the Frisoli Youth Center has commenced. DPW is also purchasing additional Big Belly solar trash compactors.
- *Green Communities* – The state announced the 2010 Green Communities grant program. To qualify for a grant, the City must first demonstrate that it meets the program's 5 eligibility criteria. Staff is assessing where the City stands. Applications are due in May.
- *Stretch Energy Code* – A session on the commercial energy code is scheduled for February 24 at City Hall Annex. A residential session will be held in the spring.
- *EV Roundtable* – Per the CPAC Interim Recommendations, staff held an electric vehicle roundtable with stakeholders and experts on January 21. Staff is following up on the discussion.
- *Binney Street Project* – The proposed development by Alexandria Realty on Binney Street will be the first project in Cambridge that is subject to the state's MEPA Greenhouse Gas Policy. The project is required to prepare an environmental impact report which will include in the scope an analysis of the project's GHG emissions and mitigation options.

### Updates

Quinton: Climate Emergency Congress on March 6, the third meeting being planned; people can submit ideas online via the Cambridge city web site.

Rosalie: Potential new committee members are being interviewed this week by staff, then recommendations go to City Manager.

Presentation by Missy Stults from ICLEI on adaptation planning

Climate Resilient Communities Program: did pilot program with NOAA; identified five milestones for municipal adaptation planning:

1. Commit to conducting a climate resiliency study with vulnerability and risk assessment
2. Set preparedness goals
3. Develop preparedness plan
4. Implement preparedness plan
5. Measure progress and evaluate plan
  - Pilot communities included Keene, NH; Miami-Dade County, FL; Fort Collins, CO

Presentation by Ona Ferguson, Consensus Building Institute

- Institute does climate negotiations and conducts an adaptation course.
  1. Priorities for engagement
  2. Inclusivity – How and when to engage with different stakeholder groups, identify what questions need to be asked.
  3. Linkages between topics such as sea rise, stormwater, etc. Conduct an initial assessment about process.
  4. Partnering regionally
  5. Identifying the appropriate process, roles and responsibilities, expectations, etc.

General Discussion on Draft Recommendations on Adaptation

Draft includes:

1. Findings on vulnerability
2. Recommendations

Goals: Create recommendations for the City Manager.

Committee reviewed findings of climate impacts:

- John Francis commented that findings should mention linkages between community and those working on the plan.
- Someone (not on committee) mentioned that there's a voice missing: the social network viewpoint that will address crime rise, higher emotional stress, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health issues, violence, displacement, and how differences in socioeconomic status will dictate ability to adapt.
- Lauren: We have to verify facts, since there are so many included; must make sure information is accurate.
- Quinton: Need 4<sup>th</sup> bullet in 1<sup>st</sup> section on why we think climate change is unavoidable.
- John B: Include a wide range of stakeholders in looking at a wide range of potential impacts.

- David: Don't want to spark continued discussion of exact numbers. As a committee we need to declare our understanding of uncertainty, but we're concerned with recommendations to City Manager. Impacts are likely enough, and so we think certain actions should be taken. Should add paragraph to beginning of document.
- Ona: asked group if we're comfortable overall with document – most said yes.
- Mead: Not sure we can rest case on findings so far. The document is operating at such a high level, it's almost meaningless. Not sure what we want to do, need a better understanding of nature and extent of impacts, especially financial impacts. Need tighter case to make recommendations.
- Jon: Lots of talk on problems, not implications. Need to deal with financial implications.
- Keren: Recommending we need to do assessment and get more data.
- Steve: Need to prioritize, what can't happen if some other things do happen (e.g., will mitigation efforts suffer if adaptation becomes a priority).
- Bill: Need to address human and economic impacts.
- Keren: David mentioned that we need citizen engagement, that we need to act as citizen advisors.
- Quinton: Points 3, 4, and 5 are lacking details on bringing in stakeholders, need to be more robust.
- Jon: There's a disconnect between issues like storm surge and involvement of other stakeholders. For example, maybe state/region should do a storm surge assessment on Mystic flooding.
- Mead: Recommendations are good, but having trouble with vulnerability assessment. Wants to make sure assessment goes deep, not just figuring out what risks are and raising alarms. Have to understand cost of this compared to other actions needed.
- Ona: You might need 1-2 more sessions to discuss potential impacts.
- John: Not ready to finalize. David, Quinton, and staff need to take comments under consideration, add in other impacts mentioned. Need clarity about what happens after assessment, then need to revise.
- Mead: Look at what other ICLEI pilots have done.

Action: Committee members should send in additional comments before the next committee meeting.

**Janet: Propose we continue discussion at the next meeting.**

**Jon: Seconded**

**Ayes have it.**

*Notes prepared by Betsy Boyle*