

City of Cambridge
Climate Protection Action Committee
Minutes
November 12, 2015
City Hall, Sullivan Chamber

Attendees: Lauren Miller (chair), Betsy Boyle, Amber Clifton, Shawn Hesse, Ted Live, Kris Locke, Christopher Nielson, Keren Schlomy, Marguerite Reynolds, Paula Phipps, Rosalie Anders, Keith Giamportone, Sarah Mandlebaum; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Guests: Seth Berkman

Introductions – all members present introduced themselves and their backgrounds

Approval of Minutes – The minutes for October 8, 2015 were approved.

ETP Director's Report

- Article 22, the Green building requirements for building code, was originally deemed easy, but not so because need to engage in consultation at all stages. Met with MIT, Harvard, and several large developers. Current road bump is that the zoning code is pegged to LEED, but LEED is being updated from v3 to v4 and the energy points are changing. The City is engaged with the parties to figure out what the new building code should be. Determined it should be based on ASHRAE 2010, but still need to determine a % of improvement. Goal vs regulation – is 22% reasonable? Asking Shawn to look at code issues.
- Last month, the City issued a bike plan. In developing the plan, they used best practices for public engagement (i.e. tools, number of people, how info is communicated). Check it out on the web.
- The City is also issuing a transit strategic plan, determining the City's goals around transit work, understanding where we are, what should we be doing next year, what resources do we need. Will take a look at CPAC recommendations. Have limited capacity, so looking for actions that really matter. This strategic planning effort must be done by Dec 15 – email John or Susanne if you have suggestions.
- Vulnerability assessment meeting Dec 3 at 6:15 at Library.
- Municipal inventory of GHGs is completed. 2008 baseline year and 2012 year have been verified by Ruby Canyon. Will report to CDP, Climate registry, etc.
- Cambridge has signed on to the Mayor's Compact (commitment from City Mayors that they will achieve climate related milestones – publicity/negotiation tool for COP21), which requires 1) community wide GHG inventory (City will find a consultant for this) within first year of signing on, 2) vulnerability assessment, 3) preparedness plan (on its way) 4) creating targets for the community, all within 3 years. Boston and Somerville have also signed.
- Presentation from CDP next week on Science Based target setting, we are encouraged to attend.

Election of officers

Lauren, Johanna and Lyn are all happy to continue their current positions, no challengers. All were re-elected for a one-year term.

MBTA Green Line extension

State is planning on taking all the stations to a basic outdoor level like Yawkey to reduce costs. If communities want something better, we can pay ourselves or pressure Northpoint developer to put money in. MBTA wants to eliminate the viaduct, but it seems unrealistic to Susanne. John drafted a letter to Frank DePaola. Letter asks to keep the current plans for Lechmere. Ideas to edit the letter: Should go to Secretary and Gen Manager of the MBTA. Shawn wants to offer ourselves as an ally vs just demanding. Tie it back to our interim goals. If the people who are receiving the letter don't know CPAC, we should add all our names. Should refer to our goals and the State's climate goals. Outdoor station is not climate resilient – tie to adaptation issues. CC the governor. CC the EEA secretary, Rep Capuano, City Manager and City Council. Express our support that we want 3 things: we want 1) the green line extension to happen with the station, 2) on time, (for climate reduction) and 3) of high quality (for resiliency). Design the stations so they're easily upgradable. Typo on the 4th line (advice). Could strengthen point in second paragraph for supporting economic growth. Correct grammar in last paragraph. Add Susanne's title. Letter with amendments is approved. Let's get the letter out next week. John will make the edits.

CPAC goals I & J Revisions

Tom doesn't think the revisions really improve the original objectives. Could we add strategies/actions? We tried but realized we didn't know what the goal really meant. Betsy wants to replace "capacity" with "knowledge". Keren suggests to keep revisions and add objectives 16 and 17 – develop and implement recommendations to address the gaps identified under goal J (16 for Municipal and 17 for Community). I is meant to address entrepreneurship. All in favor. Paula comments afterward that Actions actually bring the Municipality and Community together.

2016 CPAC Work plan brainstorming session

What is the relationship with Net Zero Task Force? City Staff and consultants are implementing the Net Zero Action Plan. CPAC could act as a sounding board to make sure intent is being met by them. CPAC should review the status of progress of the Net Zero Action Plan at end of fiscal year.

Ideas:

- Specify numbers in Goals and Objectives – several were supposed to be determined in 2015
- Discuss our contribution to Preparedness Plan
- See whether the City's Master Plan reflects CPACs goals
- Net Zero for existing buildings – how to help address this – find case studies of programs that work
- How to make CPAC more representative of the community we're serving (add some diversity!) – good example of capacity building, have tried to include Faith communities, but no success – let's figure out this problem. The City as a whole is looking at best practices around equity – i.e. Seattle uses an "equity" lens.
- Carbon offset fund for issues that are good for the community, but aren't good for sustainability, i.e. Indoor Pool at King School (Net Zero has a fund)
- Black Women's plan for resilience building - Paula will share
- Since we have limited time – we should be thinking about higher level things

- Don't wordsmith things as a group anymore
- Increasing our capacity – sub committees for engaging different community groups, state officials, legislators
- Interact in person with direct dialogue vs writing letters
- Organize and prioritize the Net Zero goals
- Update on where we are on our CPAC goals
- Balance between near term and long term issues for Net Zero implementation
- Utility issues – i.e gas leaks, net metering, there are a lot of questions
- Find balance between City's immediate needs and long term goals
- Address ecosystems – tree cover, water, landscapes
- Green roof ready (alongside solar)
- Any deep dive issues we could inform, or large gaps we could help effect action? (i.e. Vulnerability assessment): Low carbon energy supply – big topic that needs to advance – implications like electrification
- Setting community wide GHG target – how will we set it? Aspirational goal vs Science based goal vs community setting
- Discussions with like-minded groups in other municipalities – collaborate – what makes sense to work on together
- Collaborate with Green Line Extension
- Objectives for goal I
- City to review Net Zero list – where can CPAC help?
- BEUDO
- Discuss the Vulnerability Assessment
- City's Procurement issues – make it easier to collaborate with incubators/start-ups in Cambridge

We should prioritize these ideas as a group, then draft work plan for 2016, organizing by month.

Email ideas to John if you have more.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Notes by S. Mandlebaum