

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

October 13, 2016

City Hall Annex

Attendees: Johanna Jobin (vice chair/acting chair); Olga Faktorovich Allen, Tom Chase, Keith Giamportone, Brian Goldberg, Anthony Michetti (Harvard), Sarah Mandlebaum, Chris Nielson, Marguerite Reynolds, Keren Schlomy; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Guests: Courtney Buckley

ETP Director Report

- The Climate Congress kicked off. Susanne made a presentation, which is posted on www.greencambridge.org (video and discussion). This year's Congress is focused on how to build a community of response to climate change.
- The Low Carbon Energy Supply Study has been started. This is one of the tasks of the Net Zero Action Plan. Ramboll is the consultant. The study will run until at least August 2017. It was noted that Melissa Chan was asked to represent CPAC on the study's steering committee. There will be 3 large community engagement meetings. We need ideas to engage people around energy supply and people to help run the meetings so that the consultants aren't doing all the talking.
- Cambridge is in the final stages of the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition, which will close at the end of December. Tracking progress has been problematic because of issues with the competition's dashboard. Eversource is providing data.
- Boston Properties has a proposal for a major development in Kendall Square. The project mitigation includes creation of a \$6 million transit improvement fund, which will be managed by the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority, but over which the City Manager has ultimate authority.

Climate Action Plan Update

Bronwyn updated the committee on the status of the forthcoming climate action plan. Cambridge joined the Compact of Mayors in 2014 which involves certain obligations including developing a community greenhouse gas emissions inventory and a climate action plan. The inventory is underway. Bronwyn is writing the request for proposals for consultant services to do the plan and asked for feedback from the committee. To start, what should the public engagement process look like? How should the goals, targets, and actions be decided?

- Ask the consultants to propose how they would do it as a means of soliciting ideas.
- Engagement should be from the citizen's point of view
 - A lot of climate action is going on and it's hard for people to make sense of it all.
 - Could the CAP consultant tag onto other efforts?

- Consider calling the CAP something other than a climate action plan to make it more relatable.
- Is education and awareness the goal of engagement?
- Science-based targets should be used and separated from the actions. Since the target is really determined by the science, it's not really up for debate. So the focus should be on how to achieve the target.
- It would be good to engage the university partners.
- Re Scope 3 emissions, are material impacts off the table? Brownyn said they are not off the table, but might be quantified. They could be addressed qualitatively.

Net Zero Action Plan Report Process

Seth Federspiel, Net Zero Planner, has outlined a process to work with the committee on the annual Net Zero Action Plan Report. John reported that Seth's intention is to present a preliminary report to the committee and then give the committee time to digest the findings. Then at a subsequent meeting, the committee can have a discussion and make comments. The report itself will be from staff, but the committee will provide a letter indicating it's view on the report and any comments it has. It was discussed that it might be good to have a subcommittee work with Seth between the CPAC meetings.

Preparation for City Manger Meeting

The City Manager and department representatives are expected to attend the November meeting, although John will confirm this given the appointment of the new City Manager is still pending. CPAC discussed what kind of discussion to have.

- What's working well and what's not; what are the challenges and opportunities?
- Everything is pointing to carbon neutrality by mid-century as the necessary goal. What are the things we would like to do but haven't been able to? What would it take to get past barriers?
- Ask City staff to provide a list of accomplishments and future plans in advance of the meeting.
- What is the City Manager's vision for climate protection?
- What portion of the budget is spent on climate change?

Election of Officers

There was not a quorum, but election of officers was discussed. There was a suggestion of making officer terms two years to reduce the need for annual elections. John indicated that Lauren and Johanna are willing to continue, but emphasized that anyone can run for a position. So any member interested in being an officer should contact him.

Member Reports

Keren Schlomy

- DOER has a plan for new solar incentives to replace the current programs. It looks more like a feed in tariff that would run 15 years for commercial systems and 10 years for residential. SRECs are to be phased out. There would be extra incentives for certain projects involving low income households, energy storage, and canopies.

Tom Chase

- Placetailor is doing a deep energy retrofit for a 2 unit residential building at 125 Thornton St.

Anthony Michetti

- Harvard is setting a new GHG reduction goal. The current goal is 30% below 2006, which was achieved. The new goal will be science-based.

Sarah Mandlebaum

- There is a new coalition working on estimating the effect of deforestation on climate change for GHG accounting.

Christopher Nielson

- Architects and owners of 4 Living Building Challenge projects will be presenting at the Boston Society of Architects.

Johanna Jobin

- There are new metrics for sustainable brands
- A healthy materials summit will be held at Google in Kendall Square in December.

Notes by J. Bolduc