

## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE COMMITTEE MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2026 | 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

CITY HALL ANNEX, 344 BROADWAY, 2ND FLOOR & VIRTUAL ([ZOOM LINK](#))

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**General attendance** (*alphabetical order*): Meghan Shaw, Nikhil Nadkarni, Kendra Schaefer White

**Committee Members attending:** (*alphabetical order*): Wendy De Wolf, Becky Fearing, Lyn Huckabee, Yi Juan, Hajar H., Cynthia Hibbard, Megan Lim, Debapriya Mazumdar, Anna Mezheritskaya, Joel Nogie, Steven Nutter, Meredith Stoddard

Susanne Rasmussen, Julie Wormser, Nikhil Nadkarni, Stephen Early, Joel Nogie, Yi Jian, Meredith Stoddard, Anya Mezheritskaya, Megan Lim, Wendy De Wolf, Cynthia Hibbard, Priya Mazumdar,

### MINUTES

**6:11 PM**      **Welcome - Joel**

**6:12 PM**      **Approval of prior meeting's minutes**

- *Joel noted a correction regarding community heat program running dates. Meredith made the correction.*

**6:13**              **Deputy Chief's Update - Susanne**

- *BEUDO board onboarding ongoing*
- *Updating BEUDO regulations to account for the new board and to provide fair provisions for hardship filings*
- *RFP for consultant teams to develop financing strategies for residential decarbonization*
  - *Very active response - more than 10 proposals received*
  - *City staff are reviewing*
  - *The work will likely take a year or more*
- *Introduced Stephen Early - Building decarbonization fellow*

**6:21**              **Election for Chair and Vice Chair - Susanne**

- Chair is uncontested; two candidates for Vice Chair
- Will record votes on ballots
- Candidates presentations:
  - Joel Nogie - Longtime Cambridge resident
  - Megan Lim - Recent MIT Grad
  - Anya Mezheritskaya - Cambridge

**6:41**              **Review NZAP Letter next steps - Susanne and Nikhil, then Joel**

- Letter is with the City Manager, Sustainability group will request a meeting with City Manager to review
- Then possibly to the City Council, then review by Health and Environment Committee

- ML: Are we still interested in making a public post version of the letter?
- JL: We can discuss
- Typical workflow:
  - Submit both updated NZAP report and CCCC letter of comments/recommendation to City Manager
  - Then this gets on the agenda with the City Council, which usually votes to forward the recommendations
- ML asked whether the reviewing process can be made more efficient
- Joel suggested that the CCC reschedule the meeting with the department heads to Spring
- ML proposed that the education/outreach subcommittee brainstorm on how to make the CCC comments and process more public

6:58            Debrief from Resilient Cambridge Presentation at January meeting  
Susane and Nikhil, then Joel

- Susanne recapped the resiliency presentation from January
  - Key takeaways:
    - Resiliency work is a cross-collaboration between the Sustainability Dept, DPW, and Public Health
    - Primarily focused on preparation for extreme heat, future flooding
- Joel opened this for discussion with suggested 3 areas of comments:
  - Clarification questions
  - Suggestions
  - YJ: Can you explain more about the “closer neighborhoods” concept?
    - SR: Yes, an example is funding for block parties so that neighbors know each other, and another example is community resource development (i.e. cooling centers, protocols)
  - YJ: How to more equitably help people with chronic diseases that may be most affected by extreme heat?
    - SR: Public Health department has a comprehensive plan for improving community/public health in Cambridge. They also focus on healthy homes (i.e. lead paint, ventilation, mold removal, etc.)
    - SR referred to the Resiliency Playbook
- MS mentioned

- Homework for the Climate Committee: review the Resilient Cambridge website
- Joel proposed that the Committee come

7:40 Member Updates

ML: Thermal Energy Networks group making progress and interested in getting someone from Cambridge involved. Julie Wormser suggested reaching out to Arina Keith.

Upcoming Thermal Energy Networks engagement opportunities.  
Megan will email the list to the Committee.

7:45 Brainstorm possible topics for upcoming meetings

- YJ: Presentation on resilient Food Systems; can invite Harvard Climate Office and NYC food taskforce to be guest speakers
- MS: BEUDO compliance update, what is the city noticing
- AM: Sustainability Leaders training resources shared with CCC members and a crash course
- JW: Presentation on how to do Climate work at municipal level
- CH: Would love to hear this presentation. What can be done from the municipal level.
- ML: Presenters from state and federal level
- JL: Pecha-kucha presentation from each committee member to share
- MS: Technical info about building envelopes; Invite someone from Eversource to present on their work.

7:50 Public Comments

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8:00 End of Meeting

***Call for future agenda items and member updates –***

*Upcoming*

March	● TBD
April	● TBD

May	● TBD
June	● TBD
July	● TBD
August	● TBD
September	● TBD
October	● TBD

***Approval of prior meeting's minutes*** – approved with a majority

**Motion to wrap meeting was approved**

**For Reference:**

***What is the role of the Climate Committee?***

*The Climate Committee has three roles that help the City reduce climate change impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase equity, and serve as a partner to and example for other communities:*

- 1. Provide feedback and ideas to the City on ways to reduce and live with climate change while prioritizing the needs of the most at-risk populations.*
- 2. Share information about City climate programs with community members, listen to community concerns, and raise feedback with City staff so programs effectively serve all community members.*
- 3. Stay informed about the City's climate goals and provide accountability and feedback on barriers and opportunities to improve effectiveness.*

***Officer Section of Bylaws***

*Officers will be elected on an annual basis. Elections will take place in September of each year unless the Committee decides otherwise.*

***Chair***

*The chair shall be responsible for setting the agenda in coordination with City staff, for facilitating meetings, for organizing Committee work program and subcommittees in coordination with City staff, and for signing Committee correspondence.*

***Vice Chair***

*The vice chair shall assist the chair in his/her duties and fill in for the chair in his/her absence.*

***Secretary***

*The secretary shall be responsible for meeting minutes and attendance records.*