

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

July 13, 2017

City Hall Annex

Attendees: Lauren Miller (chair); Rosalie Anders Melissa Chan, Peter Crawley, Keith Giamportone, Brian Goldberg, Lyn Huckabee, Ted Live, Paula Phipps, David Rabkin, Marguerite Reynolds, Keren Schlomy, John Ullman, Quinton Zondervan

Staff: Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Guests: Charles Krueger, Adam Hasz

1. ETP Director Report

- *Recent initiatives and activities*
 - City of Cambridge signed on to Climate Mayor's Agreement, Bloomberg Commitment, Compact of Mayors commits us to do it anyway.

- *Upcoming*
 - July 20 Open house in Charlestown near Schrafft Bldg. to demonstrate storm surge barrier

2. Climate Action Plan

- *Objective:* Review draft vision statement.

"Original" version:

"Cambridge will achieve carbon neutrality and strive to have an even greater impact beyond its borders in order to have a restorative impact on the Earth's natural systems. Cambridge will take action to reduce greenhouse emissions and enhance its resilience to climate risks through equitable and just economic development, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and research and innovation."

Discussed Rabkin/Zondervan revision:

"A city achieving carbon neutrality and striving to have an even greater impact beyond its borders through actions that help restore the Earth's natural systems. A city actively reducing its greenhouse emissions and becoming resilient to climate risks through equitable and just economic development, meaningful stakeholder engagement, and support scientific research and technological and social innovation to generate new solutions to climate and other challenges."

Agreement that people want “Cambridge” actively listed. Change tense to active. Should we include specifics related to soil and water retention & urban heat island effect? Agreed to keep it broad. What is a vision statement – broad and future looking. Add a sentence on restoring Cambridge’s natural systems? Not in this plan.

Final Revised Vision Statement:

“Cambridge will help restore the Earth’s natural systems by achieving carbon neutrality and striving to have an impact beyond its borders. Cambridge will actively reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and become resilient and adaptive to climate change through equitable and just economic development, meaningful stakeholder engagement, Cambridge will also support scientific research and technological and social innovation to generate new solutions to climate change.”

3. Envision Cambridge Update

John Bolduc gave update: Seth Federspiel working on the Envision Cambridge Climate & Environment Work Group. Two meetings have been held, the next is July 19 to discuss details of goals and strategies to be sent up to the overall Envision Cambridge.

4. Committee Business

- Your short summary (does not need to be transcribed word for word...only needs to include the main ideas / outcomes). Be sure to record follow-up actions, votes or decisions.

- *Objective:* Discuss CPAC officer elections for the fall and work on planning meetings.
 - A. *If anyone has an interest in being an officer contact Lauren to discuss further.*
 - B. *Agreed to have an August meeting*
 - C. *Discussed meeting topic ideas.*

Quinton proposed Cambridge sign on to Paris Climate Accord. Discussion. Quinton to circulate logistics of how that would work, we can discuss in August meeting (10 minutes?).

Paula proposed having a meeting with the DPW to discuss how water is to be managed. Why dump stormwater into the Charles where it can flood when it can be used to green the City through infiltration? John: we can ask about how stormwater pollution (including nutrient loading) will be kept out of the Charles. September there will be a meeting on the Alewife neighborhood preparedness plan. We have modeled the effect of green infrastructure on flooding, temperature, etc. **Agreed to have a meeting on green infrastructure.** Discussion of stormwater trading schemes – Cambridge is too small area-wise.

Quinton noted that the City Council approved 100% renewable energy by 2035. Discuss with electrification strategies. **John B. said that it would be good to have a meeting on energy supply.**

On urban forest/heat island strategies – Quinton noted that Green Cambridge published a citizen science study that Cambridge is losing tree canopy. John B. noted that an update of Cambridge’s urban tree canopy is almost done, and the DPW will be doing an urban forest master plan. **Have a meeting.**

Brian asked for updates on ongoing plans and initiatives. Lauren suggested having a bullet list or spreadsheet on status. John and Bronwyn believe it is redundant with our goals and objectives report and would take too much time. **Quinton agreed to do a spreadsheet on whatever is sent to him.**

Rosalie suggested Transportation

Bronwyn suggests meeting on how the Climate Action Plan is progressing in September or November.

5. Member Reports

Rosalie: State divestment in fossil fuels effort. Cambridge retirement board has been reluctant to divest. Somerville has done it, there is an effort to get Cambridge to do so.

Quinton: Green Cambridge is looking for Board members; published a tree canopy study; completing Neighborhood Solar Tour (GC is responsible for ¼ of installations in Cambridge); doing a new program; opened an urban farm at 213 Hurley St – private property owner requested it be farmed.

Notes by Keren Schlomy