

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

4/13/17

City Hall Annex, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Attendees: Lauren Miller (chair), Sarah Mandelbaum (secretary), Rosalie Anders, Tom Chase, Paula Phipps, Melissa Chan, Quinton Zondervan, Brian Goldberg, Rosalie Anders, David Rabkin, Keren Schlomy, Ted Live, Olga Faktorovich, Keith Giamportone, Anthony Michetti; *staff:* Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc, Seth Federspiel

Approval of Minutes

- March 2017 minutes approved

ETP Director Report

- Recent initiatives and activities
- Status of CPAC recommendations

Net Zero Action Plan Progress Report

- *Review CPAC comment letter to accompany progress report*
- Action 2.3 Green Building Requirement in Zoning Ordinance
 - Stretch Energy Code updates automatically adopted in the City and explain issue with stretch code in letter
 - Move to future considerations section?
 - Zoning amendment has not happened
 - Address by adding sentence at end of paragraph that state code is impeding objective but City is still reaching ultimate goal because of update in stretch code (Quinton will email wording)
 - City collaboration with state vs. will collaboration with other cities be enough?
 - Phrase long term vs. short term?
- Copy of letter that goes out with report will be distributed to committee
- 3 changes
 - Points 1 and 3 should be very specific about CPAC recommending CDD staff enact the recommended action
 - Points 2 replace with new narrative:
 - Proposed and approved language for item 2. Action 2.3:

This action is being largely achieved by the fact that the state increased the stretch energy code in 2016, which the city had previously adopted. Future updates would likely infringe on the state building energy codes, as the Plan requires more stringent requirements. To avoid this potential conflict, CPAC supports current efforts by CDD to develop a performance based standard.

- David motioned, Quinton second – Approved with suggested changes.

Climate Protection Goals & Objectives Progress Report

- Semi-annual review of progress
- Bronwyn
 - Objective 1 on track with 2020 goal and DPW setting new goal for 2030
 - Comparing emission trajectories to science based targets, they are lining up
 - 2020 focused on building improvements
 - 2030 looking at vehicle fleet and waste
 - Objective 2
 - Community inventory for 2012 done – reviewing and will share at upcoming meeting
 - Nothing alarming
 - Next step to set targets through climate action plan
 - Kleinfelder doing the climate action plans for Somerville and Cambridge
 - Summarizing existing targets and identifying gaps to fill in those pieces
 - Objective 3
 - Yellow – didn't set explicit energy reduction target
 - Push to have target in 2030
 - Objective 4
 - First round of BEUDO and second round – EUI decreased
 - Exploring requirements as part of net zero action plan – hiring consultant
 - Objective 5
 - Yellow because data isn't consistent
 - Have more reliable data through ghg inventory for types of vehicles registered
 - Go back to MAPC to look for 2010 so we have 2 years or will just be 2012
 - David – How many cars registered and with adding more parking are our goals accounting for this
 - 42,000 cars registered in Cambridge
 - Looking at replacement of conventional vehicles
 - City has 2 different datasets that track vehicles
 - Vehicle registration overall doesn't match up with 2012 data
 - Other ways to look at vehicle population and part of goal is to reduce total number
 - How are we addressing removing or managing parking supply?
 - May need to dive deeper into topic at a later meeting – Lauren put in notes
 - Objective 6
 - Able to get an estimate from 2012 – can ask MAPC for 2010 or adjust
 - Hoping to track annually moving forward
 - MAPC dataset of 2010-2013 but still working through
 - Don't know next year we could get data from
 - Choose same quarter to take data from each year and keep methodology consistent
 - Is goal 5% reduction of total or individual miles traveled – going to table and have a future topic to discuss transportation

- Need a multi-pronged approach to reducing ghg emissions vs looking at each goal in isolation
- Objective 7
 - On track to meet goal
 - Solar generation on site in end of 2016 and now with MLK reporting
- Objective 8
 - Lacks clarity – not sure if it is onsite
 - On track in including generation outside of Cambridge
 - Ability to measure and issues of PPA's, SREC's
 - New goals for generation in City that would be another way to address
 - Discuss at a later meeting
 - May be time to add minor clarifications to goals
- Objective 9
 - DPW info shows 19% decrease
 - Assuming linear reduction not necessarily on track but may have programs coming up i.e. zero waste action plan
 - Maybe good to have an update
 - Curbside composting analysis exist and would address
- Objective 10
 - Delayed – yellow ~no data
 - Doing second canopy assessment right now
 - Going to map
 - Goal in preparedness plan
 - Quinton – citizen analysis showing that we are losing tree canopy
 - Utilizing different methodology
 - Move to red? Citizen analysis not available for review
 - Olga – Incentives or regulations to promote sustaining canopy?
 - Master plan will set goal and lay out strategies – maybe 40%
 - Paula – Address water retention of soil
 - Include on list of “hot” topics
 - Should it be red?
- Objective 11
 - Vulnerability assessment done
- Objective 12
 - Behind but John is moving ahead and looking good – good conversation in Alewife last night
- Objective 13
 - Difficult to evaluate – subjective
 - Ability to evaluate and implement curriculum
 - David - Who is supposed to be doing this?
 - John – past meetings with school to go over and decided climate change should be in science curriculum in school
 - Broaden in terms of community engagement
 - May have more ability with this

- Center of Innovation for Climate Change Solutions
 - Worked with MIT Climate CoLab
 - HEET
 - Cambridge Compact for a Sustainable Future
 - Quinton – Add Green Cambridge, Climate Congress, Net Zero (effort in Lexington, Concord and Bedford), ClimateX, Biodiversity for a Livable Climate
 - Olga – Goal for engaging other municipalities
 - Coalition building
 - Reframe or set another bar
 - Add objectives
- Objective 14
 - Running list of items pursued
 - MOU, GHG inventory, climate action plan, envision, more staff, budget increases
 - Have data now, may be tools that could be acquired to do more
- Objective 15
 - Lauren – On track but are there specific actions or are we running into gaps or TBD?
 - Brian - Overlap and sharing of models in region
- Goal J
 - Bronwyn – would be valuable to compare it to other goals we have and narrow down efforts to feed into other goals
- Lauren - Download meeting on Tuesday will focus on what to dig into deeper

March Meeting Debrief

- Olga – Observation: natural capital issue raised by Peter misunderstood and delayed as it was in previous years meeting
- David – Last summer we ran out of water: raises questions.
 - Status of reservoirs – okay now
 - Water department is looking at situation closely

CPAC Meeting Planning

A draft master calendar and list of possible meeting topics was distributed, but time ran out for discussion. To be taken up at a later meeting.

Member Reports

Quinton

- 4/24 nonbinding resolution for city to operate on 100% renewable energy by 2035

Paul

- Conference in DC on getting back to 350ppm and utilizing natural restoration to reduce CO2

Rosalie

- Faith community rally in front of City Hall

Lauren

- March for Science 4/22 Boston Common

Notes by Anthony Michetti, Harvard University