

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

April 12, 2018

City Hall Annex

*Attendees:* Melissa Chan (chair), Olga Factorovich (vice chair), Tom Chase, John Ullman, Keren Schlomy, Brian Goldberg, Christopher Nielsen, Peter Crawley, Lyn Huckabee, Ted Live, Paula Phipps ; *staff:* Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

*Guests:* Jaclyn Olsen, Associate Director, Harvard University Office of Sustainability; Quinton Zondervan, City Councillor; Fred Hewitt, Donna LeClerc, Susan Weber, Christopher Rhie, Nathalie Beauvais, Michael McNeley

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of January 11 and March 8, 2018 were approved.

ETP Director Report

- City Council Roundtable Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> on Alewife Climate Preparedness Plan
- Citizen’s Zoning Petition filed by Fresh Pond Alliance based on Vulnerability Assessment that would revise flood plain standards in Alewife Area Flood Plain Overlay District, corresponding with 0.2% flood plain, requiring flood proofing buildings, green infrastructure, social resilience, and linkage to Envision Cambridge Plan. City Council required to decide on petition within 90 days. Planning Board hearing will be followed by City Council Zoning Committee.
- The Port Neighborhood Preparedness Plan process is starting. More proactive outreach to community organizations than Alewife process.
- Legislative hearings started on \$1.4Bn environmental bond bill with a focus on resilience for ¼ of funding. Would authorize spending (prior to budget appropriation).
- New round of MA MVP funding adding additional communities and additional implementation funding.
- Envision Cambridge Climate and Environment Meeting Update (CN) – Reviewed targets for inclusion.

Harvard University Climate Change Goals

- Update on 2<sup>nd</sup> climate change goal “A Fossil-Free Future”, product of 2016-2017 CC Task Force
- Report includes findings and recommendations with unanimous approval.
- Previously reduced net emissions 30% from 2006-2016 – building energy efficiency, steam plant upgrade, regional electric grid decarbonization, solar pv, and offset carbon credits.
- New goal: fossil fuel-free by 2050 (Scopes 1 and 2 emissions), fossil fuel-neutral by 2026 (offset Scope 1 and 2 emissions).
- “Health is the human face of climate change” – 3 million premature deaths globally currently.
- Harvard has identified levers and pathways, but not discrete plan. Goal is grounded in science-based targets not cost-effectiveness. But will use lifecycle cost calculator and cost-effectiveness policy.

- Goal will require offsite renewables and carbon offsets.
- Scope 3 emissions not included, by 2050 will set Scope 3 targets. Scope 3 is far larger than Scopes 1 and 2 emissions as currently understood.
- Campus as a test bed – e.g. Campus Sustainability Innovation Fund, Climate Solutions Course, and Healthier Building Materials Academy.
- Climate Action Innovations
  - GSD HouseZero retrofit project in Cambridge
  - Joined RMI Business Renewables Center
- External Partnerships
  - Boston Green Ribbon Commission – lab energy use benchmarking
  - Cambridge Compact for a Sustainable Future – Net Zero Labs Working Group
- Labs are driving square footage growth and energy efficiency – driven by reduced air change rates.
- GHG emissions using Climate Registry Protocol.
- New Science & Engineering Complex designed to be built with new steam plant (Allston District Energy Facility) to be very much more efficient than typical lab building. Allston District Energy Facility will have largest thermal storage capacity in MA. The energy plant was redesigned to be located above ground after assessment found below ground location was vulnerable to flooding.
- Reframing costs as social cost of fossil fuels (current and future impacts) rather than social cost of carbon.
- Opportunities for Harvard-City collaboration, e.g. sharing knowledge gained through GSD HouseZero, linking data portals and pilots?
  - To date most of focus has been in Cambridge Compact and research opportunities, internship with market-based incentives for market-rate developers.
  - HouseZero project data will be shared openly.

### Climate Action Plan

- Plan framework update, strategies and actions.
- Engagement, analysis, and planning
- Plan hierarchy is sectors, strategies, actions. Sectors include buildings, waste, transportation, and environment.
- Actions work as a group, rather than prioritized list.
- Buildings strategies are driven by Net Zero Action Plan (called “strategies” here, “actions” in NZAP). Waste is driven by Zero Waste Management Plan. Several existing transportation plans feed into Transport sector.
- Environment sector, coming out of Envision and CCPR, including actions such as reducing urban heat island and related cooling energy and emissions reduction.
- How to address emissions reductions from a progressively cleaner grid?
- Recommendation to include broad changes to transportation and new emissions reduction from autonomous vehicles.
- Recommendation to show interconnectedness between existing plans and current planning processes.
- Include understanding of what is, can, should, and cannot happen in the immediate or near-term.

- Timeframe will be included in more detailed dive into each action, including implementation status, responsibility, and funding and engagement
- Prioritization will include GHG impact, level of effort, co-benefits, no formula to date
  - More granularity needed in scoring
  - There will be interactivity between level of effort and co-benefits
- Emphasize what can be focused on in the near term, but include all actions
- GHG Impact may not belong in first order prioritization (next lowest effort reduction will be preference)?
- Consider additional actions beyond tree planting to include carbon sequestration.
- How to measure impact of enablers tied to individual actions? Enablers should be tied to individual actions, especially when quantifying education impact.
- Additional work underway to complete matrixes and add additional categories, e.g. water-energy nexus.
- Some additional time remaining for filling key gaps, open to additional recommendations from CPAC, feedback needed by April 22, send to Bronwyn Cooke and she will aggregate.

#### CPAC Logistics

- Survey answers compiled and summarized:
  - Greater need on clarity of direction and purpose, need to see and feel impact of activities
  - Need for more direct individual contribution by members
  - Different meeting time options
  - How can City team get greater value from CPAC?
  - Interest in forming subcommittees
- Role of CPAC is as advisory committee to City Manager (“CEO” of City), separation between CPAC and City Council via the City Manager.
- CPAC grew out of 2002 Climate Action Plan.
- CPAC can be more proactive in prodding City staff to bring up more issues that City staff aren’t bringing to committee.
- Hybrid subcommittee process, half to meet City staff needs, half CPAC member concerns, more active role, less of a passive sounding board.
- What should subcommittee topics be? Can subcommittees meet virtually?
- What are we working on that we can do more on, and what are we missing?
- Suggested subcommittees for next CPAC meeting? Potential subcommittee brainstorming session at next meeting
- Reference John Bolduc’s list of meeting topics as base for possible subcommittees

#### Member Reports

Paula Phipps

- New Climate Solutions talk upcoming at Harvard.

Peter Crawley

- Sustainable/Healthy workplace resources, measuring employee behavior, green building features, and health outcomes in new tool from [sustainround.com](http://sustainround.com)

Quinton Zondervan

- Science March will be Saturday
- Transportation Committee Hearing on Bus Transit, momentum around improving bus transit
- Public Safety Committee Hearing on Resilience (climate and otherwise, neighborhood based)

*Notes by Tom Chase*

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