

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

November 8, 2018

City Hall Sullivan Chamber

*Attendees:* Melissa Chan (chair), Olga Faktorovich (vice chair), Tom Chase (Secretary), Jerrad Pierce, Lyn Huckabee, Peter Crawley, David Rabkin, Julie Wormser, Steven Nutter, Trisha Montalbo, Michael Sojka, Brian Goldberg, Lauren Miller; Keith Giamportone. Julie Wormser, Rosalie Anders, Ted Live; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, John Bolduc

*Guests:* Louis DePasquale, Iram Farooq, Claude Jacob, Rebecca Fuentes, Steve Lenkauskas, Quentin Zondervan, Joseph Barr, James Malone, Ellen Katz, Kari Sasportas

Welcome and Introductions

CPAC, Staff, and Guest Introductions

Annual Meeting with City Manager & Departments

Prepared Remarks

- Complex issue requiring different perspectives and creative thinking
- Thanks for CPAC leadership in climate change preparedness efforts, and support for City policies and programs to reduce emissions, prepare for climate change impacts, and science-based goals
- Net Zero Action Plan and reducing building emissions
- King Open, Cambridge Street Upper School and Community Complex first fossil-free community facility
- Alewife Preparedness Plan
- Ongoing Port Neighborhood Preparedness Plan
- Urban Forestry Master Plan
- Community role in addition to City efforts, e.g. Compact for a Sustainable Future
- City has increased resources dedicated to climate change, financial and staff resources have increased substantially in recent years and Department of Health has dedicated resilience official
- City Council leadership on climate change
- Limited time to act to avoid the worst impacts from climate change
- Most important role is to lead by example, harness technological expertise of Cambridge-based institutions, engage and support regional partnerships
- Will continue in this role and will continue to push for State and Federal leadership

Question and Answer

- How do we ensure that we don't fall behind? Can we use the City benchmarking and budgeting process to track progress on goals?
  - o 5-6 departments play a role in budget related to climate change

- Will investigate total of budgeted expenditures for this issue
- Acting budget director and analyst position vacancy hampers new budget analysis
- A lot of tracking currently with Sustainability Dashboard, including municipal metrics
- Public Works efforts include: NZAP goal of 5% of City electricity generated onsite by 2020, published in budget in recent years, on target to exceed goal in 2019, avoided energy use tracking, greenhouse gas emissions tool to set reduction target for 2030, 40+ HVAC, LED, building envelope, and other conservation projects including strategic electrification such as two firehouse VRF HVAC retrofits, in past year have installed several solar PV systems
- Building data collection efforts, including BEUDO and working with Eversource
- Envision process indicators and targets for 2030, have existing 2020 targets, how to we create mid-point 2025 targets?
- Community Choice Aggregation bids coming in next week to continue this program, program serves 39,000 accounts, largely households but also 500 businesses, in first 12 months saved \$5million for Cambridge residents and reduced emissions, looking at investing directly in solar generation instead of RECs with phase-out of SREC I and II
- Public Schools efforts over the past year include: (1.5million square feet of space and 7,000 daily lunches) construction of King School and King Open, architect selection for Tobin Complex this month, recycling program, lighting, custodial practices including facility position revising custodial handbook and training on green cleaning and equipment
- Question from Julie Wormser: What works best quantitatively for carbon neutrality, recent Boston University study, to what extent does example analysis inform City?
  - City has worked cooperatively with adjacent cities, with Cambridge taking lead on district energy analysis, Boston and BU lead on building analysis
- Question from Peter Crawley: When metrics and goals are chosen, impacting different departments differently (such as the value of a tree to public health versus traffic and parking), how is different valuation of different metrics shared amongst apartments?
  - City departments are in constant communication, collaboration and sharing understanding, such as through Envision Cambridge inter-departmental advisory group
  - Public Health Department is nationally accredited (recently) including for information sharing, 1/3 of department health sits in School Department, e.g.
  - Climate Change Preparedness Steering Committee monthly green communities coordination meetings with committee and all impacted departments
- City use of capital and bonding funds for emissions reduction and preparedness, limited in ability to undertake investments due to anti-aid amendment, in this context how to increase funding through public-private partnerships or other means?
  - Home-rule legislation opportunity should be evaluated as part of Metro Mayors Compact
  - \$400million in bonds committed in next several years
  - How can we do things differently? e.g. PACE program coming
    - CPAC should research and suggest other ideas

- CDD starting to look at renewable energy contract duration given long-term risk, learning from WRI and RMI about how to use private funding to hedge the risk
- City's significant investments in climate action, need for more significant investments, how can we make sure we have resources available in future?
  - View from context of competing needs and interests (such as housing and schools), but also recognize fiscal strength and leadership in spending to reduce impacts of climate change
  - Brown Petition, 24-member committee, what is best way to balance these competing interests?
  - Requirements based on leading studies in new development
  - Need to bear costs as a region
  - Question from Julie Wormser: Deep energy retrofits pay for themselves, can City use its financial strength to finance retrofits for private owners and public housing, e.g. and use benefits to finance additional projects?
    - City is limited in what money can be spent on, but continuing to research new services outside of traditional government structure to use financial position to leverage opportunities
    - PACE will be "live" soon, allowing borrowing against future energy savings for commercial and large residential buildings
    - MF 5-units+ program with Eversource run jointly with City, including loans, navigating program and technical know-how is larger barrier than financing, City is stepping in to provide advisory services, ultimately hopefully this can be integrated into MassSave rebate program
    - MassSave 3-Year Plan filed last week, will address net zero, concierge services, in effect January 2019 and programmed mid-summer
    - Net Zero Action Plan speaks to funding mechanisms, including renewable carbon fund, currently in feasibility analysis study
    - Reviewing zoning requirements, such as encroaching on setbacks to increase insulation, in context of Net Zero Action Plan
  - Question from Rosalie Anders: How to address split incentive with landlord-tenant relationship?
    - More promise on commercial side with green leases being executed allowing basic common-sense upgrades and other sharing of costs and benefits
      - Two Green Lease Leader owners headquartered in Cambridge
    - More challenging on residential side
- Cambridge relationship with Eversource is a problem in terms of pushing efficiency and carbon reduction, how to address?
  - City and MAPC have worked hard to cooperate with Eversource, investor-owned state-regulated utility is the long-term reality
  - Street light LED installations charged at flat-rate despite dimming and reduced usage schedules, created working group with other communities and stakeholders in controls industry, Eversource agreed to accept data for calculating bills, resulting in significant savings

- Eversource understands electric future, new Make Ready program is delivery of EVSE preparation in Cambridge at City locations ready to go (Traffic and Recreation Department's locations), City provides charging stations
- City has good relationship with Eversource, understood to be a partnership
- Question from Jerrad Pierce: Would the City explore becoming a muni?
  - Electricity distribution is not business for government
  - Always open to discussion
  - Challenge is ownership of existing utility distribution infrastructure
  - MassSave efficiency dollars from Eversource would be lost and cost of efficiency would increase
  - Similar to discussion on broadband, major financial implications in uncharted waters
- How do we apply equity lens to climate work?
  - Important issue, fortunate to have housing non-profits in City like CHA, HRI, JAS doing excellent energy efficiency and climate resilience work
  - City Council top priority is affordable housing, will continue to focus on equity through that lens
  - City collaboration with other USDN cities
    - Electrification project looking at who bears the cost of energy transition and "Just Transition" to ensure low-income populations are not adversely impacted
    - Zero Cities project with 10 other cities across US, looking at net zero time of sale and time of renovation requirements to avoid unfair burden on people of lower means
  - Community Health Improvement Plan includes foundational cross-cutting health equity, including healthy housing, work to improve baseline status of renters and other households
    - Tenants' rights education, indoor air quality education, and tools to advocate for themselves with their landlords
    - Individual and family climate preparedness and social resilience
    - Men of Color Task Force focus group on resilience, how to best reach people whose everyday concerns do not necessarily include long-term climate
  - Will become increasingly important when thinking about preparedness for long-term impacts of climate change, City's climate change preparedness planning includes focus on community resilience, next focus area is Port and social resilience
  - Question from Julie Wormser: Climate planning is more typically around buildings, through planning to date, what have been the insights around social resilience?
    - Emergency Preparedness position became Community Resilience and Preparedness position
    - Kari Sasportas role as technical advisor to several related national workgroups, Cambridge gets view of best practices through this relationship
    - Produced informational video on climate impacts on health in combination with media training for youths, working on several related projects

- City is researching Resilience Hub opportunities and related support capacity and training best practices, one task under MVP grant is to develop business plan for resilience hub with community organizations
  - Question from Peter Crawley: Neighborhood groups struggle to remain viable, how can City add capacity to neighborhood groups to build networks and improve communication, and thereby resilience?
    - City is in conversations with existing neighborhoods and working with Public Health Department through Port neighborhood resilience plan to find solutions to these challenges and build-up social capital, including things like understanding how to measure social capital
    - Mayor's Summer Youth Employment program and Glocal Challenge engaging high school students to find solutions to climate change challenges, this year's challenge is about climate change communication
    - E-Link program with younger children in schools to understand energy efficiency and renewable energy
- What can Cambridge do to communicate commitment and encourage engagement by residents and community businesses?
  - City has to go to residents and businesses, at events, with City leadership and experts
  - Citizens' Advisory Committee to inform City of what's going on in communities
  - CPAC has a role to play in communicating City activity to residents and businesses
  - Communications staff positions and funding have been added to departments
  - People who can use City services the most often know the least about how to do so, that's a major ongoing challenge for the City
  - Pilot project in Port with videographer, young people, City staff, results on website, believe in the power of the trusted source, working with the voices on the ground
  - Question from Rosalie Anders: What are City's priorities on State legislation that we can push for?
    - City has great relationship with State officials, the more voices speaking to the State the better
    - State infrastructure and commitment made by Governor, hasn't been followed-through, one-off investments need to be replaced by systematic investment, being able to advocate for that will be important in coming years
    - Emerging transportation challenges, need to better regulate transportation to positively impact carbon emission reduction
    - Stretch Energy Code update, advocacy for net zero Stretch Code, making sure the state keeps up to date with code adoption and Stretch Code adoption
    - Flood protection perspective for code adoption
  - Question from David Rabkin: What do you need from us?
    - Hear and listen to where residents of City want to be going
    - Highlight areas we don't see addressed
    - Give-and-take evaluation and advisory role
    - CPAC has a community ambassador role
    - New ideas and suggestions, CPAC has laid out rationales and next steps, multiple examples

- Think tank on new ideas to put before City Manager

#### Approval of Minutes

No minutes for approval

#### ETP Director Report

- Active engagement with other communities on scooter regulations at City and State levels

#### Member Reports

Lauren Miller

- EBC Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forums, next is November 30<sup>th</sup>

Julie Wormser

- BSA Space – Climate Resilience in the Public Realm November 9th

*Notes by Tom Chase*

DRAFT