

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

June 13, 2019

City Hall Annex

Attendees: Melissa Chan (chair), Tom Chase (secretary), Rachel Jacobson, Michael Sojka, John Ullman, Julie Wormser, Keith Giamportone, Keren Schlomy, David Rabkin, Fred Hewitt, Trisha Montalbo, Rosalie Anders, Steven Nutter; *staff:* Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Guests: David Sittenfeld, Museum of Science; Joel Nogic

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of May 9, 2019 were approved.

ETP Director Report

- Good turnout at Climate Art Exhibit opening (~150 people)
- Port preparedness plan public meeting took place Tues June 11. Next stage will be Port plan and Alewife plan feeding into the city-wide plan. Many more direct outreach opportunities to come.
- Future Food event about honey on Saturday June 15 (final of three)
- Closing out MVP Plan Grant. Distributed Climate Resilience Toolkits for renters, homeowners, and small businesses. Thinking about how to get that info out in ways other than paper.
- Finishing CRLS/Library/War Memorial complex community emergency response center study
- Working with Margaret Fuller House and Cambridge Community Center on Resilience Hubs study (finishing June 30)
- Public Hearings at the Statehouse on climate resilience. Governor has proposed ~\$1B from real estate transfer tax. Speaker has proposed ~\$1.3B funded through bonds.
- Seth is putting together focus group for 5-year Net Zero Action Plan Review. Keith will represent CPAC on the focus group.

Urban Heat Island Mapping Project

- Museum of Science is leading a NOAA Education grant-funded project on citizen science, civics, and resilient communities
- Previous project ran from 2015-2018 and brought people together at 8 science centers around the country
- Testing “science-to-civics” innovation. Using SciStarter, a website where you can find local citizen science projects. 700 people are registered in Boston area.
- Select local projects in Cambridge and Boston that fit their respective municipal resilience plans, are well-design, and cost-effective.
- In Cambridge they are doing a heat mapping project using sensors that residents can mount on cars, etc. This allows for creation of a dynamic heat map for the city by having data collected multiple times/day in the same location (better than satellite data). Doing lots of recruitment for citizen scientists right now. In addition to data collection, also asking folks to use ISeeChange to do investigations of extreme heat.

- Will then convene people to share projects and get feedback, with the idea of integrating those projects into the local plans.
- This is a great opportunity to raise awareness about the existence of the urban heat island effect and get it into the vernacular (similar to what happened with king tide documentation a few years back in Boston)
- We can all help promote recruitment for the project

Net Zero Transportation

- As we have discussed at previous meetings, there is a gap in our net zero emissions planning/action re: transportation. We have discussed doing a net zero transportation plan. CPAC is invited to form a subcommittee to put together a recommendation regarding the prospective plan and get it on the City Manager's radar that this is an important thing to do.
- Interested: Rosalie Anders, Steven Nutter, Trisha Montalbo.
- John will send email to CPAC members who aren't here tonight

Impromptu items: Predatory clean energy marketing and Recycling

- Members discussed what can be done to reduce predatory marketing for clean energy and the concern that residents may not be aware that they are automatically served by the City's clean energy program.
- Members discussed the problems of recycling in the City (and around the world), lack of standards and accountability, and the impact they may have on the City and its residents.

Port Preparedness Plan

- City has done two neighborhood preparedness plans: Alewife and The Port. Alewife – specifically looking at new development; Port – specifically look at retrofitting.
- Port neighborhood boundary was defined to align with stormwater drainage
- The neighborhood is less white and has relatively more older and younger people than the City as a whole
- 2010 floods showed that the drainage system is not prepared for an intense storm; climate change is a threat multiplier – will experience more intense precipitation in the future, more extreme heat days, and urban heat island effect.
- The neighborhood is inherently resilient due to its rich network of community organizations
- Members discussed whether it is worthwhile to think about micro-scale managed retreat from the most flood-prone area in the neighborhood (School Street and Bishop Allen area)
- Ideas for change:
 - Enhanced resilient gray and green infrastructure (modeled what the benefits would be if implemented all feasible gray/green strategies everywhere)
 - Super resilient block – maximize resiliency strategies in one defined area
 - Resilient People – a prepared community of people and organizations. This is harder for the city than the other two ideas.
- Next steps: collect comments on Port plan, develop city-wide plan, develop and implement actions

Member Reports

Rachel Jacobson

- American Society of Adaptation Professionals is hosting a visit to the City's climate art exhibit on Wed June 19 at 6PM featuring an artist panel.

Steven Nutter

- Concert for the Sycamore trees on June 23 on Memorial Drive by JFK Park

Keith Giamportone

- MIT recorded six climate change lectures that should be available

Notes by Rachel Jacobson