

City of Cambridge
Climate Protection Action Committee

Minutes

September 10, 2015
City Hall, Sullivan Chamber

Attendees: Lauren Miller (chair), Johanna Jobin (vice chair), Lyn Huckabee (secretary), Olga Faktorovich Allen, Rosalie Anders, Sarah Brylinsky, Tom Chase, Amber Clifton, Peter Crawley, Keith Giamportone, Ted Live, Kris Locke, David Rabkin, Marguerite Reynolds, Keren Schlomy, Quinton Zondervan;
Associate Member: Jackie Cefola; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

City representatives: Richard Rossi (City Manager), Lisa Peterson (Deputy City Manager), Kristen Middleton (Public Schools), Owen O'Riordan (Public Works), Joe Barr (Traffic & Parking), Sam Corda (Water), Iram Farooq (CDD), Steve Lenkauskas (Electrical), Ranjit Singanayagam (ISD), Kari Sasportas (Public Health);

Guests: David Matty, Seth Berkman, Lauren Hintlian, Harry Hintlian,

Update from City Manager Rick Rossi and City of Cambridge Department Representatives

- Rick Rossi, City Manager remarks - The City of Cambridge and respective department managers are fully behind climate protection and recommendations of CPAC. Across departments, across initiatives, including less waste, more renewable energy, more efficiency, everyone is working across departments to contribute to sustainability and other CPAC initiatives. We are fortunate to have many people in the Cambridge staff who are supportive of these initiatives, especially under the guidance of Susanne Rasmussen and John Bolduc as well as Bronwyn Cooke. We are committed to improving in addition to standing by our previous work, including focusing on continuing to support solar development in the city. We have done a lot around city including street lighting and traffic lights; this initiative is indicative of the City commitment to pursue sustainability even if the financial bottom line means spending more, and like the street lighting initiative, many of these programs have in the end saved the City money on its bottom line.
- Updates on the Net Zero Action Plan - Process was sheperded successfully with input from all local entities including developers, businesses, and higher education entities and was endorsed in full by the City Council. The MLK

School will be the first target for Net Zero building by the City this Fall, with the King Open school the second. The MLK project strove for but will not achieve net zero due to site constraints, but there is more potential for the King Open site.

- Update on Municipal Sustainability – K-12 Schools and Net Zero Building are a source of pride for the City. DPW is focusing on updating municipal buildings for efficiency and resiliency. More funding is being provided towards staffing and programs for sustainability in the community, which is a departure from previous City focus on stationary staff numbers. Growth to staff and program funding is a testament to the City's focus on this effort.
- Update on GHG Reduction Goals - A key focus for the recently completed RFP for the City of Cambridge Citywide Plan focused interviews of potential firms on their ability to provide GHG mitigation expertise.

6:17pm Department Updates

- *Water* - Director Sam Corda reported on several initiatives completed and underway. The first, variable frequency drives on water pumps will be completed by 2017, saving the City 1 million kWh electricity per year and will improve water flow control. LED lighting initiative continues with indoor and outdoor improvements; entering third round of improvements will lead to additional 25,000 kwh savings per year. A new solar PV system will be installed by the end of 2015. Completed a study on hydropower; regulatory obstacles identified previously have recently changed and plans will be revisited for this option. Fall 2015 DEP grants for hydropower will be pursued. Working on climate resiliency through a drought management plan to establish tools to manage water during water shortage periods and simultaneously save energy, and assess the impact of climate change on the water sources for the City. Received DOER \$1 million Resiliency Grant to update the power plant with battery back-ups for short term emergencies
- *Traffic & Parking* - Director Joe Barr reported traffic & parking's ongoing contribution to promote use of sustainable transit methods with residents, and collaboration with businesses entities to encourage employees to do the same. Considering assessment of parking garages for further climate /energy savings this Fall. Exploring alternative energy generation possibilities for parking garages, and back-up battery systems to improve traffic signal resiliency (including emergency evacuation routes).
- *CDD* - Director Iram Farooq cited completion of the Net Zero Plan as providing a roadmap to put the City on the path to climate leadership. Implementing this roadmap will be the department's focus moving forward. First steps including implementing stronger LEED building requirements which will be presented to the City Council early this Fall, and creation of an infographic for community

communication of the Net Zero impact. Hiring a Net Zero Coordinator this Fall to manage implementation of the plan. Completing work on the City Climate Vulnerability Assessment (in partnership with DPW and Public Health). Part 1 of the report will be released this fall, including vulnerability to precipitation and heat in 2030 and 2070. Part 2, focusing on vulnerability to sea level rise and storm surges in 2070, is also nearing completion. Phase 2 of this project, Adaptation Planning, will be coordinated with the launch of the Citywide planning effort. This was the first year of implementing the building energy use disclosure ordinance - currently at 90% compliance for the requisite properties, exceeding expectations. Efforts are underway to analyze the and making data accessible to the community. The Georgetown Energy Prize effort is underway (2 years to reduce energy use with municipal and residential units) with strong focus on achieving high gains. Bike Network Plan and Transit Strategic Plans are complete and will go to City Council for approval this Fall.

- *Public Works* - Director Owen O'Riordan reported that the City has reduced energy consumption by 20% from baseline on track with CAP. New plan to begin assessing 40 facilities this Fall, targeting older buildings for energy consumption reductions. Seeking to establish goals for 2020 for energy reduction based on the assessment. Worked closely on Climate Vulnerability Assessment with CDD. October 19th will launch North Cambridge effort to reduce waste by 30% by 2020, focusing on new curbside collection processes for compostable waste and use of regional anaerobic digesters (which will become more accessible as a result of recent MA legislative changes). Increased sidewalks and bike lanes throughout City in the last year, including update on Binney St. - citizen communication remains a focus during these projects to communicate social and environmental benefits of construction. Seeking to increase the numbers of trees planted in the City and ongoing arborist support, to curb urban heat island impacts identified in the Climate Vulnerability Assessment. The Police Department recently received LEED Gold as a result of building improvements. City Manager added that CPAC could assist Public Works with channels for citizen communication on the success and impacts of these projects, and that every public works project goes through a sustainability analysis of how routine maintenance can be an opportunity for sustainable improvement.
- *Public Schools* – Sustainability director Kristen Middleton reported strong partnership with other city organizations, which enable sustainability improvements in energy management, green space, waste, and educational projects. Received Green Ribbon Schools District Award in 2015 - City officials were recognized in Washington D.C. Composting is implemented in all but 3 public schools, in partnership with DPW. School buildings are the largest GHG segment in municipal emissions - emissions are reported monthly and targeted for improvements. In pursuit of Georgetown Energy Prize students and teachers are being targeted as innovation partners. Energy efficiency projects include: lighting retrofits at Cambridgeport, design study for all schools

on lighting, HVAC updates at War Memorial, retrofit of CRLS parking garage with LED lighting. Solar feasibility is focus in coming year, particularly for Kennedy Longfellow School.

- *Public Health* - Kari Sasportas, Public Health Department, reported on behalf of the Director. Public health was actively involved in the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). New priorities include adaptation planning, targeting high risk, vulnerable, and isolated individuals, increasing community awareness of readiness and preparedness efforts including awareness of emergency resources & shelters and implementing a neighbor-to-neighbor program. Intend to develop new protocols and emergency plans for flood and heat emergencies identified as possibility in the CCVA.
- *Electrical* - Steve Lenkauskas reported that the LED street light retrofit project is complete and fixtures are online, running smoothly. 4.6 million kWh baselines for energy use has been reduced by 1.6 million kWh (52%), projected down to 2.2 million kWh total for FY2016. 2.2 million kWh baselines for parking lighting will be reduced as well. Updates include controls to meter data and understand savings in more detail. All planned building retrofits for lighting are replaced with LEDs; nearly 3,000 lamps changed this year. Pilot underway to use LED fixtures in old florescent fixtures at the Cambridge Library. Reported additional benefit of reduced ongoing maintenance needs for all LED replacements
- *ISD* – Commisioner Ranjit Singanayagam reported commercial buildings are now complying with stronger international standards for insulation and roofing material. Increased required amount of indoor day lighting for municipal buildings up to 50%. Ductwork will be upgraded with more insulation. Increasing focus on sustainable design, including green roof potential for existing buildings. Enforcement of existing energy code continues.
 - City Manager noted that with the increase of interest in residential solar installation, a rise in 'solar energy scams' have risen as well and should be of continued focus and discussion for solutions.
 - Lyn Huckabee noted that the Department of Energy is developing a new solar tool to aggregate solar, efficiency, and other programs from across the state which could be used as a reference tool

6:57pm CPAC Questions to City Manager

How can CPAC ensure climate goals are a part of long-term building decisions?
City Manager reported that positive interactions are already taking place around sustainability policy issues between Planning Board and other entities involved in community development. The Zoning Board of Appeals must be included in these discussions. Possible sustainability presentation to ZBA during one of their 2 monthly meetings, if they could appoint a subcommittee to work with CPAC to

host public meetings to generate ideas, we could accelerate action in this area - ideally this should occur before 2016.

Is there consideration for doing a Transportation Taskforce similar to the successful community taskforce on Net Zero Building Ordinance?

The City Manager suggested CPAC appoint a small subcommittee to define the goals and objectives of such a group with an emphasis on short-term project gains. Susanne Rasmussen reported that a significant component of the new City Plan would be focused on transportation planning above and beyond what has happened in the past. CPAC could help identify goals for this process. It was suggested that a collaborative input process would generate more innovative ideas. City Manager suggested in addition, a process which focuses on community engagement and education is also necessary so that new transportation initiatives, particularly those which remove parking from the City, are seen as positive by all community members. It was also noted that the value of including mobility as part of a larger City Plan is that it becomes holistically connected to other sustainable initiatives and a larger climate leadership vision, i.e. related to public health, financial savings, etc.

Notes by Sarah Brylinsky, MIT