

City of Cambridge
Climate Protection Action Committee

Minutes

May 14, 2015
City Hall Annex

Attendees: Lauren Miller (chair), Rosalie Anders, Betsy Boyle, Sarah Brylinsky, Peter Crawley, Ted Live, Lauren Miller, Tom Page, Marguerite Reynolds, Keren Schlomy, William Zamparelli, Quinton Zondervan;
staff: Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke

Guests: Paula Phipps, Amber Clifton

1. Approval of Minutes - No quorum

2. ETP Director's report:

Budget hearing went well, budget will be adopted by council on Monday because came out of committee favorable and most of council was at the hearing! 300% budget growth for ETP! In support of transit planning, net zero, etc. Includes a net zero FTE! Council recognized the huge effort involved in implementing all these initiatives.

Net zero plan will be discussed at Environment Committee on June 9, 4 to 6:30 pm at city hall. CPAC members are strongly requested to attend and show their support for the recommendations.

Building Energy Disclosure Ordinance (BEUDO) deadline passed, 50% submitted, 75% have committed to submit by end of the month (extension given). Est. 60,000,000 Sq. ft. will be reporting (at 75%).

All day charette by Eversource, step one towards establishing MOU to cover municipal, residential, commercial, electric vehicle (EV) and data, very broad agreement to collaborate, unprecedented, never seen this level of cooperation before. Huge download today to help city with establishing a baseline for the Georgetown university prize! Hopeful to get multi family pilot off the ground soon. Eversource has MOU with other large customers but this will be the most expansive MOU in terms of the amount and diversity of issues covered.

Ruby Canyon Engineering to verify our GHG inventory in about 6 weeks as third party certifier.

Requested amendment to zoning code to permit car share in residential areas going in front of planning board on June 2nd. Will be controversial, important to show support. Previous attempt was not successful. Q: What does this mean exactly? A: Car share is technically not allowed in residential zoning; it is running a business on residential property. This excludes huge parts of city from convenient access to car share; large residential multifamily cannot technically have car share in their parking area. Yes, city can allow it on the street, but don't like to do so because street cleaning and snow clearing! Only one Zipcar is currently housed in an on-street parking spot. Don't like to put Hubway on the street either, for the same reasons.

3. Solar Recommendation

Discussion. QZ: Add background language and recommendations to increase or remove the caps (Eldridge bill). Also to support doubling the RPS, and increase solar carve-out (Downing bill). Small wording changes from committee: future of tax credits clarification, limited access to benefits instead of "no access", NZTF has developed instead of "is developing", community solar ... available to residents add "(including renters)".

6:40 Bill Zamparelli arrives, 10 members, still no quorum

Motion: Tom: Approve the solar recommendations with suggested edits. Voted: 10-0.

Susanne: Budget includes solar panels for Kennedy Long Fellow School.

Motion: Rosalie: Direct staff to collect additional votes from members not present to approve solar recommendations. Voted: 10-0.

4. NZTF: Susanne Rasmussen

June 9 Enviro committee hearing, then hopefully June 22 or 29 city council meeting will go before the full council to approve recommendations. Website has been updated with all the materials. Request from NZTF to council: endorse recommended actions and process, including 5 year review and stakeholder engagement. Staff is responsible for implementation, and CPAC will ensure annual report on the progress against the plan. Also city will report on energy use in the city from Eversource and BEUDO supplied data.

Year one planned NZTF recommended actions to be taken by staff in FY16 (July '15- June '16)

- Multifamily energy efficiency pilot with Eversource (Multifamily energy efficiency program has not been very successful. Idea is to create a more streamlined approach in short time frame with better incentives).

- Market based analysis for energy efficiency (by MIT Sloan School and HBS). Initial feebate proposal was controversial, so converted to a market mechanism study.

- Height and FAR bonuses to be studied along with citywide plan.

- Increase LEED requirement to Gold plus 6 energy optimization points (QZ: is it 6 points or 10? Susanne: document has been updated to reflect 6). CDD will start drafting that language soon.

- Net zero municipal construction.

- Removal of barriers to increased insulation.

- Low carbon energy supply for the city: staff will draft scope for that, along with eco district, will go out to consultants.

- Solar ready requirement, zoning law change. Will probably get consultant help.

- MOU with Eversource is in process.

- Encouraging net zero lab standards, might be good foundation managed process? Similar to eco district where foundation is supporting a project manager.

- Communication strategy. Hardest and least defined at this point.

All of the above will be acted on during the next fiscal year (starting July 1). Obviously they will not all be completed within the year. Hope to have net zero FTE on board no later than September.

Low carbon energy effort might be useful for CPAC to comment on.

Maybe CPAC can also comment on solar ready requirement exclusion criteria, i.e. what situations will warrant an exception, e.g. excessive shading, large number of roof penetrations, etc.

QZ: LEED Gold requirement timeframe? Susanne: this fall? QZ: Please prioritize so it can get done this council session. It has been requested since two years ago, and everybody now agrees that we should do it, so let's get it done.

Peter Crawley to draft a letter in support of NZTF product, for June 9 hearing, asking the city council to approve recommendations and process. Lauren will finalize letter and present it at the hearing.

5. Climate Co-Lab Heat Island FollowUp

Discussion. Bronwyn: add climate CoLab results to our urban heat island recommendation? Conclusion: to be discussed at future meeting

6. CPAC Workgroups (7:25pm) - Lauren & Bronwyn

Split into 3 working groups but widespread confusion about meaning of "capacity":

I.14 - Grow community capacity...

J - Have capacity to mitigate GHG emissions...

J2 - Have capacity to prepare for climate change...

No this does not mean how many staff does the city need or how many hours will they spend on these things.

Susanne: Example: Sustainability compact, had a presentation on vulnerability assessment. Research continuity was a big concern from MIT/Harvard. Climate disruption presents a danger to scientific experiments. So they are now formulating continuity plans. That's an example of community capacity to adapt to climate change.

Example: NZTF created some capacity: broad agreement that net zero is the right goal.

Tom Page: Data collection and analysis of energy use.

Lauren: collaborative networks, different groups within the city, what would they need to survive catastrophic events.

QZ: So maybe we should recommend other task forces to address other aspects of climate change issues?

Susanne: Would be useful for staff to give examples in the goals document of capacity building that has already happened.

QZ: Create specific categories of actions? Examples: task forces, community compacts, data availability, etc.

Peter Crawley: Transition Towns movement? Build grassroots organizations to help respond to climate change.

Action items summary:

1. Document what's already happened in terms of successful capacity building events.
2. Categorize those events so we can brainstorm and prioritize additional capacity needs organized within specific categories for easier consumption/understanding of what is meant by "capacity".
3. Update the language in goals document eventually to reflect our better collective understanding of "building capacity".

Susanne: Forgotten update: Metro mayors and city managers met yesterday at UMass and signed a document to collaborate on climate change preparedness. Report in one year and at least hold one other meeting of the executives; staff from participating communities will meet every other month. This is historic and of critical importance because it means strategies and resources can be identified and directed in a more collaborative manner (as opposed to: how do I get money for my community?). Boston/Cambridge are ahead of the game but it is extremely positive that other communities are getting involved (e.g. Revere, Winthrop, etc.).

7. Adjourn - 8:03pm

Notes by Quinton Zondervan