

City of Cambridge
Climate Protection Action Committee

Minutes

October 8, 2015
City Hall, Sullivan Chamber

Attendees: Lauren Miller (chair), Johanna Jobin (vice chair), Olga Faktorovich Allen, Rosalie Anders, Betsy Boyle, Sarah Brylinsky, Tom Chase, Amber Clifton, Peter Crawley, Keith Giamportone, Shawn Hesse, Ted Live, Kris Locke, Chris Nielson, Tom Page, Paula Phipps, David Rabkin, Keren Schlomy, Bill Zamparelli, Quinton Zondervan; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Guests: Seth Berkman, Malcolm Bliss, Peggy Barnes Lenart

Introductions – Several new members have been appointed by the City Manager. There are now 26 full members and 3 associate members. All members present introduced themselves and their backgrounds. Introductions will be done again next month to continue the effort for everyone to get to know each other. John will work on creating short bios to distribute as background information.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes for September 10, 2015 were approved, noting that the attendees should show Betsy was not present then.

ETP Director's Report

- DPW is developing a facility improvement plan that will cover 42 municipal buildings. Arup and New Buildings Institute have been selected as the consultants for the project. The plan will cover a wide range of needs and objectives, including energy performance, sustainability, and resiliency. The process will enable the City to establish a municipal GHG reduction goal. The Net Zero Action Plan calls for the City to design to net zero standards by 2020.
- The Cambridge public schools is competing in the Glocal Challenge sponsored by EF and Google. School teams develop sustainability ideas for the competition and specifically how to help Cambridge win the Georgetown University Energy Prize. The City will support 3 teams to attend the competition meeting in Iceland in 2016.
- The first implementation effort for the Net Zero Action Plan is to amend Article 22 of the Zoning Ordinance to upgrade the green building requirement for private development to LEED Gold plus requiring achievement of energy optimization points. The objective is to have

buildings be at least 22% better than the based energy code relative to the 2007 ASHRAE 90.1 standard.

- The City has to implement a new contract for municipal electricity supply by the end of the year. Staff is working with an energy broker team to put the City on the path to acquiring 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020. While the contract completed this year will probably focus on obtaining a new power supply that is as clean as the Eversource basic service supply, the City is moving toward acquiring power with net metering credits to support renewable energy generation. The City is aiming to contract directly with renewable energy generators in the near future. Community aggregation is still being studied.
- The City is supporting the Kendall Square EcoDistrict in a contest for the MIT Climate CoLab. The EcoDistrict and the City are seeking designs for high density bike racks to increase the amount of available bike parking. There was discussion about how the City participates in Climate CoLab and the need to move beyond ideation and provide a means for desirable projects to be implemented.

September CPAC Meeting Debrief

The September meeting with the City Manager and department representatives was reviewed. Items to be followed up include:

- CPAC should weigh in on the King Open School reconstruction project and the net zero goals.
- Support is needed to make sure the Green Line Extension project stays on track given the recent revelations about project costs. A letter from CPAC to the MBTA about why the project is important for climate and sustainability would be helpful.
- Many communities in the region have committees similar to CPAC. It might be interesting and useful to gather members of these committees to discuss regional cooperation and ways to make each more effective. John will contact MAPC to see if they can facilitate such a meeting.
- The City Manager expressed some concern that some residents may be the target of scams about solar energy. Staff will look into the nature and extent of this problem.
- The DPW works on a lot of projects that have climate benefits. CPAC might be able to help on communicating these benefits.
- The City tends to rely on financial indicators, such as bond ratings, to measure progress. There is a need to introduce other indicators that reflect the status of sustainability in Cambridge to complement the financial indicators.
- The Green Line Extension project, which would start in Lechmere, has been seeing projected cost escalation. The MBTA is value engineering the project to reduce costs. It may be that the new stations will be downsized and made less elaborate. CPAC will work on a letter to send

to the MBTA/MassDOT for discussion at the November meeting. The letter should include a comment about needing to incorporate a flexible design in anticipation of the changing climate (eg, outdoor stations may need to be enclosed to provide air conditioning in response to rising heat).

King Open School Reconstruction

A letter to the City Manager was reviewed and approved with edits to support the net zero objectives of the project. It was noted that there are competing desires for the project coming from the community. For instance, a new indoor swimming pool is of interest to some community members. Based on the discussion, the committee felt the letter should be careful to not argue one value over another, but point out the benefits of a net zero approach to help inform community decision-making. The approach should include consideration of life cycle costs and operating cost reductions. John will edit the letter and review with the executive team before sending to the City Manager.

Climate Protection Goals I & J

The Committee discussed approaches to revising the language for goals I & J of the Climate Protection goals and objectives. These goals involve support for climate entrepreneurship and capacity building. Brownyn and Sarah Brylinsky will work on the language for consideration at the next meeting.

Public Comments

Seth Berkman suggested that CPAC try to offer more specific recommendations about the King Open project. Peggy Lenart liked the reframing of the letter and effort to reach out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Notes by J. Bolduc