

# City of Cambridge

## Climate Protection Action Committee

### Minutes

January 8, 2015

City Hall Annex

Present: Lauren Miller (chair), Johanna Jobin (vice chair), Lyn Huckabee (secretary), Melissa Chan, Rosalie Anders, Quinton Zondervan, Betsy Boyle, David Rabkin, Marguerite Reynolds, Ted Live, Tom Page, Keren Schlomy; *Staff*: Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke

### ET&P Report

- **BATTERY STORAGE GRANT** - DOER \$850k grant for Water Department to operate the emergency management center and non-treatment facilities at the Sullivan Water Treat Plant. The system will be based on a planned solar PV rooftop installation. Installation is contingent on feasibility study and design.
- **MICROGRIDS** – Cambridge, Somerville, Boston, NYC and DC sponsored 6 month study to explore opportunities and tap technical experts. Effort culminates in district energy conference in Boston 6/30-7/2
- **GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ENERGY PRIZE** – Cambridge is a finalist! At the end of 2 years the city that saved the most energy in the residential sector wins \$5M. Steering committee is forming
  - Started in January
  - Overall savings, total not per capita, over your own baseline
  - All small cities
- **CZECH INTERVIEW** – Suzanne was interviewed by a Czech TV show for a story about climate change preparedness.
- **MUNICIPAL AGGREGATION** –A potential solution to our concerns about MA has emerged. The company Good Energy is new to MA but has done very large aggregations in IL; IL was one of first markets where aggregation was feasible and then NJ and then coming into MA. They're doing a large aggregation for Plymouth and Bristol county communities focused on the economic benefits. They are working with Melrose to increase renewable energy supplied by MassEnergy. Discussions about how to plug in will take place over the next few months.

**VOTE** - Motion to approve September minutes passes unanimously.

**NET ZERO TASK FORCE** – The task force has made its recommendation for NZ emissions – not energy. Their goal can be met by sourcing off site renewables.

- Questions: What is our (CPAC) role to advance it? What do we want to recommend to the city for further action?

- Presentation on the results of the task force. Integral is consultant hired to do analysis. 20+ year framework (every action will require further deliberation) which set realistic targets based on technology, economics, regulation, energy supply. Targets/actions reviewed every 5 years.
- Planning board decided against requiring NZ emissions immediately because it would make the community less competitive locally.
- The public committee process included 2 large public meetings.
- Goal is 70% reduction of emission by 2040
- Actions based on market transformation principles include:
  - NZ New Construction
  - Transformational Retrofits
  - Energy Supply
  - Local Carbon Fund
  - Capacity Building
- Challenge is lab space. No current examples are net zero!
- Very few of these requirements will be implemented ASAP. These are policy targets. At some point, will become regulatory requirements. It takes in to account the lead time needed in the market. Point of 5 year reviews is to allow for an opportunity to adjust targets to reflect current market situation.
- NZ NC incentives action would generally affect the under 20k sqft zoning ordinance.
- 1.2 does affect 20k + sqft buildings – raise to LEED Gold with energy optimization points.

#### Action 2 – Transformational Retrofits

- Require audits, retrocommissioning, and O&M plan
- Talking about intervention at time of renovation and/or sale – burden on the seller

#### Action 3 – Energy Supply

- Begins with solar ready requirement with common sense exceptions

#### Action 4 – Investigate Local Carbon Fund

- Allowing for local offsets
- Would be managed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Not a requirement – not the gold standard

#### Action 5 – Capacity Building

- Communications Strategy
- NZ Lab Standards – meant to be voluntary. For the lab community to gather and agree to an aggressive operational best practice.

#### Immediate Steps

##### 2015

- Updated LEED Requirements for New Construction
- New Solar Ready Requirements

- Kick off Incentive and Energy Studies

2016

- Pilot green fee & rebate program in residential sector
- Kick off investigation of a Carbon Fund
- Begin to review BEUDO data

Next step:

- Consensus based recommendation to city manager by the end of January
- Starting to plan for the external budget for fiscal '16 which will be requested in the next few months

How CPAC can be helpful

- Continue to ask questions
- CPAC to be the oversight to ensure that implementation is moving forward. Group is widely representative = well suited to hold the city accountable to the goals. This is building operations so NStar and BEUDO data will make it easier to monitor progress moving forward.
- How to tie in to overlap of CPAC Goals/Objectives? How much energy/revision do we need? Use our goals/objectives as a cross check in the NZ plan. The task force eventually will go away and CPAC will need to enforce.
- Should CPAC publicly endorse these recommendation? Should we amend our goals/objectives to adopt them? Should we form a subcommittee that does a deeper dive on the recommendations to provide comments? Subcommittee = Quinton, Rosalie, Peter Crawley
- Staff would do the official review and CPAC would endorse the annual report.
- When the issues arise, committee could serve to iron out issues.
- Also support the staff when they ask for resources to support the effort.
- Advisors when staff needs advisors. Also independent high-level piece of oversight. Not detailed active management.
- We could do a project review subcommittee. Suggested to do Monday night because it is difficult to add additional evening meeting time. Staff has to work on Monday night anyway.

Most contentious parts

- Performance fee
- NZ lab standards by 2030
- There are pieces that might not be required but might be vigorously encouraged. When we know what is advanceable without new fights, we can figure out where we can help with both areas.

**VOTE** - Quinton – Motion to accept responsibility to monitor the NZTF recommendations by: annually reviewing and reporting on progress on the recommendations, forming a subcommittee to conduct more continues ongoing review of the recommendations, and to make specific recommendations when appropriate to ensure the goals of the NZ initiative are being met.

Passed unanimously

Vote for public support of recommendations scheduled for March. Committee should empower subcommittee to begin review of the recommendations? Final recommendations will be released by the end of the month.

**SCHEDULING** - February meeting on vulnerability assessment is on the same day as CPAC schedule. Going to have one hour meeting and encourage people to go to other meeting. Staff will contact subcommittee in the meantime. If anyone wants to join subcommittee, they should email existing members.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** -

- Ensure CPAC maintains momentum because it is more stable than City Council
- Increased emphasis on affordable housing sustainability. Now, buildings able to win approval for more affordable units.
- Will there be feedback mechanism between 5 year reviews to incorporate new tech? Yes – annual review
- What is process? How can public help? Goes to City Manager then to City Council. Needs majority support. Public can talk to the Councilors – explain, educate
- Report out on December subcommittees
- Mitigate GHG emission
  - Need Department of Climate Change to create a focal point for these activities.
- Capacity to foster community
  - Start by creating a list – use existing lists
  - Work with Greentown Labs and CIC sustainability initiative
  - Create an online match hub

*Notes by Lyn Huckabee*