

# December 14 Cambridge Climate Committee Meeting

Notes taken by Lyn Huckabee

- NZ Action Plan Comment Letter – process for soliciting comments
  - At January meeting, someone from CDD will provide an update at the meeting.
  - Group working on the meeting needs to read and get together in the latter part of January
  - In February, we should present draft of the letter and solicit edits. March if edits are not agreed to in February. Committee would like two weeks in advance. David wants to comply but warns that it may be a challenge.
    - We can share a document so people can look at it in progress
  - We will take a vote on letter since it's a formal communication from the Committee to the city.
  - Tom Rawson wants to review what's happening versus what's planned. We should write our letter about where we are
  - Neheet Travedi wants to know what happens with letter – City Manager Huang saw it at the very beginning of his term and the Council did see it and acted on it in BEUDO updates. He telegraphed to staff to prioritize climate and to choose what can be done well. Letter is a public document.
    - If letter has action items, do we have responsibility to follow up? Not our responsibility to manage the process – up to CDD staff to push back on recommendations and check on realism. However, we need to use past letters now, and this letter in the future, as a comparison tool on recommendations
- Committee officer elections – roles and proposed process
  - Naheet sent bylaws with descriptions
  - Goal is to hold election in general
  - Meghan would like to do nominations via a form
  - Members can self-nominate or nominate others
  - Discussions of how to ensure that we have enough candidates
  - Discussion of time requirement and what it entails – the officers gets together with staff to debrief previous meeting to determine content of next meeting, typically finalizing details with a few emails back and forth. Occasionally, they might end up with another meeting. Subcommittees are more time-consuming. Meghan and David back each other up. Vice chair fills in when chair is out, but sometimes they are an emissary for staff efforts. Secretary should know the bylaws and document management. Some secretaries have been just as involved as the chair and vice chair.
  - Candidate should speak about why they want to do it to ensure that they are willing and engaged
  - New chair will take over for February meeting
  - Process of election – working group will suggest an approach.
- Recommendations of MA Climate Chief and process for evaluating them with Committee

- Group is presenting context today and will spread recommendations out over a few meetings
- Gov. Healy named Melissa Hoffer as Cabinet level climate chief to ensure climate focus in all executive offices. Climate Office is separate from EOEEA ( Secretariat. Report is their priorities. Also, Quentin Palfrey was named director of federal funds and infrastructure to coordinate major funding.
- There is a lot of major state activity happening, including new regulations on the future of gas.
- Meghan would like to discuss additional city structural changes to ensure the city is following state climate goals. In the City Manager meeting, other Department Heads are invited to attend – it might be helpful to talk about our alignment with state climate chief recommendations there.
- How do we connect with the city staff to respond to them
- Questions for meeting with City Manager Huang
  - Pasang Lhamo shared a [spreadsheet](#) where we can crowdsource questions
  - Even if a question doesn't land on the official meeting question list, Meghan and Suzanne can bring it to city staff for answers. List should be any question you have – even if department won't be in attendance, we should ask the CM.
  - We can send a reminder email a week before the next meeting – 5-10 min before January meeting to review
  - If you know what department the question should be addressed to, note it in the appropriate column. If you're not exactly sure what function lies where, just indicate in general terms who the question is for.
- Residential Decarbonization in Cambridge
  - Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory – every 5 years and verified by 3<sup>rd</sup> party
  - NetZero(NZ) Action Plan – every 5 years with yearly status updates
    - Custom Retrofit up to 50 units – Cambridge Energy Alliance voluntary program
    - Over 50 residential units or commercial – BEUDO
    - Upgrades at transaction points – early policy development phase to implement in the future
    - Carbon Free Energy Supply
    - Rooftop Solar Requirements & Community Solar Access
    - Off-site Renewable Electricity Access
  - Codes and Zoning – specialized stretch code, fossil fuel free demonstration, climate resilience zoning, Article 22 Green Building requirements
  - Funding – federal and upgrades at transaction points
  - This is so big that we need to figure out how to parse out the issues
- General feedback
  - Share meeting info as early as we can
  - A reminder to please fill out the [bio + photo collection form](#) if you haven't yet.
- January meeting agenda
  - Election – 15 min
  - Work on NZAP letter with presentation (Tom to present FY23 Status report) - 20 min

- Collecting questions for CM Huang in February – 20 min (Susanne to send Meghan previous CM questions)
  - Discuss Climate Chief Report – pt. 1 – 15 min
- Tom shared highlights of a discussion he had with a CRLS student about the Climate Voices group at CRLS. Hajer HYTE, who is on our committee, is a leader of the group. He suggests inviting them to the January meeting to share what they're working on as a first step in building the Committee's relationship with them and the Committee was supportive.
- MOVE CRLS Climate Voices up the agenda- 10 min