

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CCAC)**

Date: January 12, 2021

Time: 7:00PM

Place: Remote via Zoom

Present: Prassede Calabi, Wei Chen, Rick Eno, Alan Field, Adrianna Garber, Ruth Trimarchi, Chair

Guests: Lisa Wong, Town Manager; Kim Roeland, Ken Pruitt, Jared Hoffman

Absent: Jason Roeder

Call to Order

Chair Trimarchi called the meeting to order at 7:00PM, declared a quorum present and initiated roll call. Present were Chair Trimarchi-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Chen-Y, Mr. Eno-Y, Mr. Field-Y, and Ms. Garber-Y.

Introduction

Chair Trimarchi introduced Christine Barraford as the new Recording Secretary. As a climate change proponent, Ms. Barraford expressed appreciation to support the mission of the committee. Members present introduced themselves and welcomed her to the committee.

Old Business - Update on MAPC Grant

Chair Trimarchi reported that the MAPC has approved a \$52,250K grant to fill the position of Sustainability Director. She is seeking approval of the Finance Committee to provide funding for the position in order to be reimbursed by grant funds. Town Manager Wong is seeking two reserve fund transfers, one for personal services if the position is approved as a regular employee, and the other for professional services if the position is approved as a consultant. Ms. Wong emphasizes that either way, the Sustainability Director is an essential position and of high value and overall benefit to the town now and into the future.

Chair Trimarchi reviewed the presentation she will be making to the Finance Committee on Thursday, January 14th (see attached “SD for Winchester 1/14/21” presentation.)

Discussion ensued including the following highlights: a) purpose of grant to provide “seed money” only and not a grant-sustained position; b) distinct roles of present energy coordinator and sustainability director and opportunities to collaborate; c) benefit of permanently funded position vs. consultant position with defined scope of work including project deliverables; b) need for experienced person with proven track record and salary commensurate with experience; c) value of initial consultant initiated in town culture with rollover to permanent position; d) source of

funding; e) potential magnitude of climate grants becoming available generated from position; e) look into potential contribution of the Barr Foundation; f) if position is not approved by the Finance Committee the grant may need to be renegotiated.

Town Manager Wong commented that the Finance Committee is currently engaged in the larger budget planning process and due to the cost impact of the pandemic, a conservative approach is especially called for this year. She allowed that the committee will consider a cost-benefit analysis of the position independent of the grant.

Chair Trimarchi confirmed that her thorough presentation to the Finance Committee will include the members' discussions.

Liaison to the Committee

Chair Trimarchi introduced Jared Hoffman, a graduate student at Texas Tech University. His project is to research unaddressed areas of heat and vector borne diseases from the standpoint of what neighboring communities and the state are doing. He will provide recommendations for the town to institute policies from an educational perspective.

Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2020

Upon motion duly made by Chair Trimarchi and seconded by Mr. Field, it was unanimously voted to approve above minutes. Chair Trimarchi-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Chen-Y, Mr. Eno-Y, Mr. Field-Y, Ms. Garber-Y, Mr. Hoffman-Y, and Mr. Pruitt-Y. Motion passed 8-0.

Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2020

Upon motion duly made by Chair Trimarchi and seconded by Mr. Field, it was unanimously voted to approve above minutes. Chair Trimarchi-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Chen-Y, Mr. Eno-Y, Mr. Field-Y, Ms. Garber-Y, Mr. Hoffman-Y, and Mr. Pruitt-Y. Motion passed 8-0.

Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2020

Upon motion duly made by Chair Trimarchi and seconded by Mr. Field, it was unanimously voted to approve above minutes. Chair Trimarchi-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Chen-Y, Mr. Eno-Y, Mr. Field-Y, Ms. Garber-Y, Mr. Hoffman-Y, and Mr. Pruitt-Y. Motion passed 8-0.

New Business - Climate Webpage

Mr. Wei reported that he is investigating the use of social media and website creation as a means to educate residents on the issues of climate change. Mr. Field noted that coordination with other organizations in town like *Sustainable Winchester* is key to develop a clear unified message. He also noted that MA Energize has made available a platform towns can use for climate initiatives. Chair Trimarchi commented that further steps are on hold since she is consulting with the Town Clerk, Town Manager and Town Counsel, who are in the process of developing a social media policy on clear and concise guidelines and rules.

DEP Grant

Mr. Wei updated the committee on the application for a DEP grant for electric vehicle chargers due March 19th. The town currently owns 4-5 low-wattage electric vehicle chargers which are installed at town commons. This grant is for higher voltage/faster chargers at approximately \$50K/each, and the current underground infrastructure will accommodate expanded installation. The application is quite technical and he will confer with advisors Brian Szekely, Town Planner and Kim Roland and others for assistance to obtain charging stations vendors/quotes.

Updates on Projects Proposals

Mr. Eno updated the committee on the following proposed special projects:

School Outreach – Ms. Garber

Ms. Garber reported that she is currently working with YEP! (Youth Engagement Planning) on bringing this group back to Winchester for a second year, as part of an educational speaker series she is designing for high school and middle school students.

Mr. Eno commented he would share with her a presentation that his daughter in another high school created on the environmental costs of producing clothing and apparel. Mr. Pruitt commented that student outreach is critical in educating parents on climate action goals. He suggested a goal may be to have every high school student family opt up to the 100% wind power renewal program. Mr. Eno pointed out that fellow students are working with Ms. Garber as a member of the committee and not members themselves of the committee.

Building Projects – Mr. Field

Mr. Field presented his short-term and long-term plans and timeline for three projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce or eliminate the use of fossil fuels in new and existing buildings (see “Building Projects” attached hereto.)

Discussion ensued including the following highlights: a) the energy rating system proposed different from home performance contractors; b) apply at time of sale to existing building; c) apply when permit is pulled for renovation or building inspector; c) provide incentives rather than prohibitions; d) present senate climate bill waiting for governor signature includes requiring energy resources then give tool to adopt energy stretch code; e) home energy audit; f) no new gas and fossil fuel installations in Brookline and Lexington; and g) home rule petition to legislature needed to adopt permanent changes.

Crosscut Projects

Chair Trimarchi reviewed the ways the committee could support the town in cross cutting projects including: a) providing a “climate lens” and site specific input to new development; b) climate language provided in the RFQ and RFP for the Waterfield project; and c) monthly check with Town Manager and Select Board on initiatives to support.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Chair Trimarchi and seconded by Mr. Field, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Chair Trimarchi-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Chen-Y, Mr. Eno-Y, Mr. Field-Y, and Ms. Garber-Y. Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:32PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

Climate Action Plan 2020 – Sustainability Director
Presentation to the Finance Committee January 14, 2021