

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAAC)**

**Date:** January 18, 2023

**Time:** 7:00PM

**Place:** Remote Meeting via Zoom

**Present:** Rick Eno - Chair, Ruth Trimarchi, Josh Bers, Jason Roeder, Wei Chen and Tapas Gopalakrishna

**Guests:** Maddy Coleman and Maureen Mansfield

**Absent:** Prassede Calabi

Chair Eno called the meeting to order, declared a quorum present and initiated roll call. Present were Chair Eno-Y, Ms. Trimarchi-Y, Mr. Gopalakrishna-Y, Mr. Roeder-Y, Mr. Bers-Y and Mr. Chen-Y.

**Approval of Minutes – December 8 and December 12, 2022**

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Trimarchi and seconded by Mr. Gopalakrishna, it was unanimously voted to approve the above minutes. Chair Eno-Y, Ms. Trimarchi-Y, Mr. Gopalakrishna-Y, Mr. Roeder-Y, Mr. Bers-Y and Mr. Chen-Y. Motion passed 6-0 unanimous.

**Update from the Sustainability Director – Mr. Pruitt**

Mr. Pruitt gave the following updates.

The draft of the sustainable building policy, retitled from the energy efficient building policy, has been reviewed by the Committee and key staff personnel and will be ultimately signed by the Select Board and School Committee. The policy will be reviewed by the Educational Facilities Building and Planning Committee at its meeting on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. A copy of the draft policy and confirmation of the zoom meeting will be sent to members and their attendance is encouraged.

He, Ms. Calabi and Chair Eno met with the Town Manager and gained support for a letter to be sent to all residents by the end of February urging them to opt up to WinPower 100. Discussion ensued on the need to distill a very complex program into clear simple language in order to encourage buy-in by the average resident.

DPW has approved the make ready program for the installation of EV fast charging stations; approval of funding from Eversource and National Grid is anticipated for purchase of the stations. A meeting with the Town Manager and staff is scheduled next Tuesday to discuss a proposed contract with FLOW for the Town to own the charging stations with operation and maintenance to be outsourced.

The MAPC sustainable landscape guide and training for homeowners and landscapers on sustainable practices will be kicked off at the end of the month. Quotes will be obtained to commence the project by the end of the calendar year.

The Lynch Elementary project has moved from conceptual planning to the actual design/development stage. Given a fixed budget of the \$95 million project, with \$20 million in state funds, if costs come in higher than expected, value engineering will determine where cuts will be made. Having the Sustainability Director, and CAAC, at the table will ensure that cuts will not impact net zero building standards.

### **Specialized Stretch Energy Code – Mr. Pruitt**

Mr. Pruitt reported that the Town Manager and Chair of the Select Board have advised that they are unable to sponsor the warrant article on the specialized energy code at the Spring Town Meeting but will consider for the Fall Town Meeting. Discussion ensued on developing a timeline that will involve outreach to all stakeholders and a comprehensive educational campaign leading up to Town Meeting. Clearly and simply stated, this program is not a “nice to have, but a must to have” in order for the Town to reach its climate goals. Both Brookline and Watertown have adopted plans with many other communities attempting to do so as well.

Discussion also ensued on the synergy between the Sustainable Building Policy and the Stretch Energy Code with the important point being that the Town is leading the way with regard to its own net zero building policy before adopting the law that will enforce building practices through permitting.

A subcommittee will be formed to develop the narrative and upcoming presentation to the Select Board on its sponsorship of this critical bylaw.

### **WinPower100 – Mr. Gopalakrishna**

Mr. Gopalakrishna reported that Selectman Fallon had offered to record a short video for posting on social media on how easy it was to opt up to WinPower 100. Similar to the ALS water bucket challenge, the video would end with a bite out of a cookie and encouraging others to “take the WinPower challenge.”

Discussion ensued on guidelines for postings on official town social media. Insofar as such postings from town entities were discouraged, Mr. Pruitt suggested postings on citizen-sponsored websites like Sustainable Winchester, which is very supportive of WinPower 100.

Discussion also ensued on ways to appeal to different demographics across town who are not frequent users of social media. Ms. Coleman suggested posting information on the Winchester residents’ webpage, and Mr. Bers suggested residents posting their own “cookie-baking videos” and reaching out to high school students and sports coaches for suggestions for initiatives.

Discussion also ensued on ways to engage businesses on adopting WinPower 100 in collaboration with partnering with the Chamber of Commerce in getting the message out on its website.

**Food Waste – Mr. Gopalakrishna**

Mr. Gopalakrishna began the discussion on offering initiatives to restaurants for food waste diversion. Suggestions included involving high school student volunteers in transporting food waste to the transfer station and posting information at restaurants that their businesses are powered by renewable energy. It was also suggested that advice be sought from Black Earth on other successful community programs as well as the possibility of offering group discounts to restaurants pooling their food waste.

**Compostable Utensils – Ms. Coleman**

Ms. Coleman reported that she had met with the High School Assistant Principal to discuss compostable utensils. The challenge is to find a supplier of compostable utensils that is cheaper than the current supplier. A grant or fundraiser may be considered in covering costs.

Discussion ensued on the possibility of re-usable silverware. Ms. Coleman stated that this would entail additional cafeteria staff and would not be cost effective. Black Earth had previously rejected compostable utensils as they did not degrade fast enough. The present challenges were noted in efforts to reduce waste without increasing the carbon footprint.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Trimarchi and seconded by Mr. Roeder, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Chair Eno-Y, Mr. Gopalakrishna-Y, Mr. Bers-Y, Mr. Roeder-Y, Mr. Mr. Chen-Y and Ms. Trimarchi. Motion passed 6-0, unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford  
Recording Secretary