

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

Date: February 9, 2023

Time: 7:00PM

Place: Remote Meeting via Zoom

Present: Rick Eno, Chair, Ruth Trimarchi, Prassede Calabi, Jason Roeder, Wei Chen and Tapas Gopalakrshna

Guests: Ken Pruitt, Maddie Coleman, Richard Rohan and Alan Fields

Absent: Josh Bers

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

Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2023

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

Announcements from the Chair

Chair Eno made the following announcements:

Unless the Governor renews authorization for remote meetings, all meetings of the CAAC will be conducted in-person starting on April 1st.

All members are required to complete online state ethics training. Voluntary training on the Open Meeting Law will be conducted in-person on February 28th.

In accordance with state law, all municipalities are required to submit an annual report of its major activities and those of town committees. This report is due by the end of February. The Chair will prepare a draft report of the CAAC for distribution to committee members for review.

Update from the Sustainability Director – Mr. Pruitt

Mr. Pruitt gave the following updates.

The draft of the sustainable 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 review of the policy by the Educational Facilities Building and Planning Committee was postponed from its January meeting to a meeting in March. Confirmation of the date of the zoom meeting will be sent to members and their attendance is encouraged.

A draft of the letter with regard to WinPower 100 has been sent to the Town Manager to be sent under her signature by the end of February urging all residents to opt up to WinPower 100. This personalized letter from the Town Manager is expected to have a positive impact on residents' understanding of the importance of this program in fostering energy efficiency.

DPW has approved the make ready program for the installation of EV fast charging stations at Jenx Town Hall and approval of funding from Eversource and National Grid has not yet been granted. Municipalities are currently are in the process of urging the DPU to revise language with regard to the unrealistic restrictions on the application for grant monies.

The MAPC has approved the Town's bid for a sustainable landscape guide and training for homeowners and landscapers on sustainable practices. Quotes will be obtained to commence the project by the end of the calendar year.

The specialized stretch energy code has received the enthusiastic support of a member of the School Committee. This support is critical as school buildings have a major carbon footprint. Support by the Select Board to support a fall town meeting warrant is also crucial and a presentation to the Board is scheduled by the end of March. Three municipalities have already adopted the code and 20-25 other municipalities are expected to adopt at their spring town meetings. Discussion ensued on the wisdom of the Town adopting its own code before the issuance of a state-wide mandate.

WinPower100 – Ms. Calabi

Ms. Calabi began the discussion on ways to enhance outreach efforts to different demographic groups across Town in support of the Town Manager's letter to residents. Committee members volunteered to make initial contacts to school sports teams and clubs, town committees, citizen-sponsored websites, social media, newspapers and others. It was agreed that the message would be consistent and reflect the intent of the Town Manager's letter to residents. Ms. Calabi will make final changes to the list as attached and forward to committee members.

Mr. Gopalakrshna 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."

Food Waste – Mr. Gopalakrshna and Ms. Calabi

Mr. Gopalakrshna reported a successful meeting with the high school principal on setting up an opportunity for students to volunteer hours to form a team to assist restaurants in proper disposal of food waste. Ms. Calabi noted the imminent arrival of the new DPW director and reaching out to him on the work of the committee in this area. Chair Eno cautioned against setting up unrealistic expectations among the restaurants as student volunteers rotate and are not available for the entire calendar year. A more realistic alternative would be a "one and done" method with a finite number of climate-meaningful hours to each project. Mr. Gopalakrshna and Ms. Calabi will draft a list of suggested projects that may be suitable to this model and bring back to the committee for further discussion.

Mr. Gopalakrshna reported that he had been invited to write an article for publishing in *The Stroll* with regard to his involvement in the CAAC, which received wholehearted support from the committee.

Compostable Utensils – Ms. Coleman and Ms. Calabi

Ms. Coleman reported that she is pursuing a bridge grant to fund compostable utensils. Ms. Calabi noted that the cost between regular and compostable utensils is substantial and a bridge grant could be used for a trial period to justify the cost to the reduction of trash. Discussion also ensued on edible flatware.

Earth Day – Ms. Trimarchi

Ms. Trimarchi noted the importance and responsibility of the committee's presence and involvement in the upcoming Earth Day celebrations on April 22nd. Discussion ensued. Concepts will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Calabi and seconded by Mr. Gopalakrshna, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Chair Eno-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Gopalakrshna-Y, Mr. Roeder-Y, Mr. Chen-Y and Ms. Trimarchi. Motion passed 6-0, unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary