

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

**Date:** March 9, 2023

**Time:** 7:00PM

**Place:** Remote Meeting via Zoom

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

**Guests:** Ken Pruitt, Maddie Coleman and Alan Fields

**Absent:** Wei Chen

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, Ms. Calabi-Y and Mr. Bers-Y.

**Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2023**

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

**Announcements from the Chair**

Chair Eno made the following announcements:

All members are required to complete online state ethics training.

In accordance with state law, all municipalities are required to submit an annual report of its major activities and those of town committees and the CAAC report was submitted at the end of February.

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

Mr. Pruitt gave the following updates.

He, Mr. Bers and Mr. Roeder presented the draft of the sustainable building policy to the Educational Facilities Building and Planning Committee at its last meeting. Feedback ranged from very supportive to one of an independent approach where the School Committee would develop its own sustainability guidelines, outside of the work done by the CAAC and the Sustainability Director. Discussion ensued and the team will continue to strive to develop a common set of sustainability building guidelines that apply to all Town buildings.

### **Climate Action Plan Implementation Metrics – Mr. Pruitt**

Over the last several months, Mr. Pruitt, Mr. Bers and Ms. Trimarchi have been developing a framework to monitor the implementation of Winchester’s CAP. The CAP was adopted in 2020 with two overarching goals: 80% greenhouse gases reduction by 2050 and increased community resilience. Mr. Pruitt reviewed the proposed metrics structure and the preliminary status of implementation in the areas of energy supply, building, transportation, solid waste and community resilience. To move forward, he suggested discussing one specific area of the CAP at each CAAC meeting.

Discussion ensued on the prioritization of topic areas with a focus on mission-critical items. It was agreed that Mr. Pruitt will generate a sign-up sheet for members to “own” a topic item to delve into and prepare for presentation at each meeting with Energy Supply as the first item to be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Pruitt announced that the Select Board had voted to execute technical assistance from MassDEP to study the potential for a mandated universal SMART program solid waste disposal at the transfer station. Each resident would pay a certain amount for a sticker to enter the transfer station and purchase special bags only for placement on the conveyer belt.

### **WinPower100 – Ms. Calabi**

Mr. Pruitt reported that he has a meeting with the Town Manager on Monday to discuss the letter to residents endorsing the Town-sponsored approval of the WinPower100 program. The language of this letter will be used as a consistent template for the CAAC’s outreach efforts on the program.

Ms. Calabi reported that John Fallon of the Select Board had given his endorsement of the program, and the committee reviewed several videos that Mr. Gopalakrishna had made of Mr. Fallon “taking the cookie challenge” to endorse WinPower100. Discussion ensued on the best way to get the message across and promulgating the video on social media, as well as having residents redeem their email verification of their opting up to WinPower100 for a cookie at Fuller Cup and posting their response to the cookie challenge on social media.

The committee agreed on the importance of the video as well as the letter to residents containing the correct factual information on the cost of WinPower100 as compared to Eversource basic. Ms. Calabi will redraft the WinPower100 fact sheet and disseminate to members in anticipation of outreach efforts to the community as reinforcement for the letter from the Town Manager.

### **Compostable Utensils – Ms. Calabi and Ms. Coleman**

Ms. Calabi reported that the cost of non-compostable utensils is \$.02 each as compared to the higher cost of compostable utensils at \$.05. She stated the argument for the more expensive compostable utensil is the cost differential in solid waste realized at the transfer station. Ms. Coleman is pursuing the approval of the High School Principal to submit a grant for a trial first-year run of compostable utensils.

Discussion ensued. It was suggested that the buyer for the food service may be a more reachable point person to discuss the correct volume of product anticipated and identifying the vendors of non-compostable products and the possibility of cost reduction in collaborative purchasing power.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13. The meeting will be in-person.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Calabi and seconded by Mr. Gopalakrishna, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Chair Eno-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Gopalakrishna-Y, Mr. Roeder-Y, Mr. Bers-Y and Ms. Trimarchi-Y. Motion passed 6-0, unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford  
Recording Secretary