

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

Date: April 13, 2023

Time: 7:00PM

Place: Winchester Public Library

Present: Rick Eno - Chair, Ruth Trimarchi, Prassede Calabi, Jason Roeder, Josh Bers and Wei Chen

Absent: Tapas Gopalakrishna

Guests: Ken Pruitt and Maddie Coleman

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

Approval of Minutes – March 9, 2023

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Calabi and seconded by Mr. Chen, it was unanimously voted to approve the above minutes. Chair Eno-Y, Ms. Trimarchi-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Chen-Y, and Mr. Roeder-Y. Motion passed 5-0 unanimous.

Update from the Sustainability Director – Mr. Pruitt

Specialized Stretch Energy Code - There was a Specialized Stretch Energy Code meeting held on April 12. Mr. Bers and Mr. Gopalakrishna joined Mr. Pruitt at that session which went well. Mr. Pruitt will begin meeting with other committees, with a goal that the Select Board sponsor this initiative for Fall Town Meeting. Seven communities have already adopted the Specialized Stretch Energy code, including Boston, and about 20 others are expected to adopt this code in their Spring Town Meetings. Those likely opposed to the code include Pipefitters and Gas Workers. Locally, opposition may come from builders, developers and maybe some real estate agents. Mr. Pruitt believes we need to communicate the facts, as he believes the Department of Energy Resources has produced a thoughtful Code.

Sustainability Director Support - Rachel Whitehouse has volunteered to work with Mr. Pruitt on a volunteer basis. The committee was very pleased to hear this, given the admirable job Ms. Whitehouse did on the Quiet Clean Winchester campaign.

Sustainable Landscaping - The first workshop was held in Stoneham and was attended by 42 people. The next workshop will be Saturday, May 20, 1- 3 pm in the Winchester Library. All are invited.

DC Fast Charging Station – Mr. Pruitt reported that the Department of Public Utilities has confirmed the Make Ready requirement – to receive a grant the Town must apply for any other funding possible. The magnitude of the grant is then reduced by any other monies received. Many anticipated state-wide projects have stopped due to this burdensome requirement. The risk for Winchester is that we may run out of time for our grant. As such, Mr. Pruitt is working on gaining an extension to allow the Town to adapt.

WP100 – Beth Rudolph is still committed to send out the WinPower 100 letter, but wants to see how Eversource rates will be set for the next cycle. We will need to edit the letter to reflect new pricing. After discussion, the Committee concluded that while the relative cost advantage or disadvantage of WinPower 100 versus alternatives will vary, it is the easiest and most impactful action that a Winchester resident can take to lower their carbon footprint.

Lynch School – Mark Scott of EFPBC suggested that the Owner Project Requirement (OPR) document be used as a template to incorporate sustainability policy for school projects. The committee noted that the OPR must be given to prospective bidders at the beginning, not at the end.

Climate Action Plan Progress Review – Mr. Roeder and Mr. Pruitt

Mr. Roeder and Mr. Pruitt reviewed the key aspects, and progress, for the Energy Supply portion of the CAP. The presentation is attached. The committee was very complimentary of the presentation and the work that went in to prepare it. Many of the high impact items are well in progress. The overall conclusion from the Committee is that for Energy Supply, while there are some very critical milestones regarding renewable power sourcing that must be achieved over the next few years, Winchester is on track to achieve its Energy Supply CAP goals.

Other Items

The committee discussed posting the notice for the high school position in May. The concept of having a Voting member and Non-Voting member(s) was discussed. This was viewed favorably as it will allow more students to gain experience working with CAAC, while potentially accelerating progress towards achievement of the CAP goals. Chair Eno will investigate posting rules for the Town and circulate a draft notice to the committee.

Ms. Trimarchi noted that an Earth Day event will be held on April 22 from 9 am -1 pm. The focus will be on the Aberjona River clean up. All are welcome to join.

Next Meeting

The next CAAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10. The meeting will be in-person at the Winchester Public Library. Mr. Roeder, Mr. Bers, and Mr. Pruitt will review the Buildings portion of the CAP.

During the next meeting, the Committee will be holding the annual election for the Chair. While Chair Eno is pleased to serve again, he is open to others having the role if so desired. Please see him if you are interested in running as Chair of the Committee.

Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Calabi and seconded by Mr. Bers, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. Chair Eno-Y, Ms. Calabi-Y, Mr. Chen-Y, Mr. Roeder-Y, Mr. Bers-Y and Ms. Trimarchi-Y. Motion passed 6-0, unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Eno
Chair