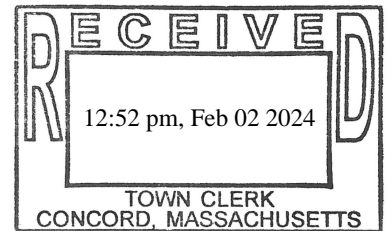


CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
Tuesday February 6th, 2024
7:00 PM
MEETING AGENDA



Meeting Location:

- In person: Select Board Meeting Room, Town House, 22 Monument Square, Concord, MA
- Remotely, through the following meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84538297108?pwd=Ti9OODdwbFFqdDEyQmk0ZkZOZm5SZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 3829 7108

Passcode: 453589

By phone: 833-548-0282 or 833-928-4608 (US Toll-free)

1. Welcome – comments and announcements [7:00]
2. Meetings and minutes [7:05]
 - a. Approval of January 9th minutes
 - b. Clerk tonight – TBD
 - c. Upcoming meeting dates and clerks (Meeting Time: 7PM)
March 5th (and subsequent first Tuesdays) – Clerk: TBD
3. Director’s update (Eric) [7:10]
 - a. Written update attached
 - b. Updates on grant opportunities
4. DPW Stormwater Utility presentation and discussion [7:25]
5. CAC Chair update [7:40]
 - a. Brad stepping down following this meeting
 - b. Seeking volunteer for replacement – nomination and vote
6. Updates from Working Group efforts: [8:00]
 - a. Municipal Solar Task Force report (Gavin)
 - b. Metrics/Reporting (Courtney)
 - c. Residential Engagement – Green Home Tours (Cheryl/Brad)
 - d. Municipal Electrification/Schools
 - e. Climate Vulnerability Assessment
7. Public comments [8:55]
8. Adjourn [9:00]

Distribution:

Committee Members: Brad Hubbard-Nelson (Chair), Courtney Eaton, Jake Swenson, Paul Kirshen, Ben Slayden, Gavin Colbert, Karen Gibson, Jerry Frenkil, Janet Miller, Michael McDonald, Cheryl Baggen

Town: Town Clerk, Mark Howell (Select Board Liaison), Eric Simms (Sustainability Director)

Local Groups: Mothers Out Front, ConcordCAN, League of Women Voters

Proposed article text:

Title: Concord's Updated Goals to Meet the Climate Challenge

Text:

To determine whether Town Meeting will:

- a) Declare a Climate Emergency, in recognition that climate change threatens humanity-and that we could do significantly more to mitigate the harms imposed by climate change;
- b) Update Concord's Energy Goals (2017 Article 51) to reflect our commitment to the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Therefore Concord will strive to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040 and by 85% by 2050 from the baseline established in 2008;
- c) Concord will report on emissions on an annual basis and on its progress towards the Climate Action and Resilience Plan with specific initiatives on a quarterly basis.

We urge Concord to remain a leader in demonstrating our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in every sector of the economy and by our actions inspire communities across the Commonwealth to do the same.

Reference:

1. Commonwealth goals: www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-clean-energy-and-climate-plan-for-2050
2. Article 51 presentation: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8015/Art-51--Concords-Energy-Goals>

Sustainability Director's Update

February 6, 2024

Recent Highlights

- Continuing to coordinate with Town departments and the Department of Energy Resources on implementation of the Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program. The regulations will become effective in Concord on March 21, 2024. Current considerations include if/how participation in the program may influence Concord's ability to approve natural gas infrastructure requests from National Grid for any work that might result in new service or expanded capacity. The Sustainability Director was invited to Deaconess/Newbury Court to provide information about the new building regulations and how they might impact their plans for a new facility on their Concord property.
- Continuing to coordinate with the GHG Inventory working group to move forward with updating the GHG inventory for Concord.
- The HVAC system at the 107 Knox Trail building was recently upgraded to an all-electric heat pump system. A total of 8 old condensers were replaced with four 4 new 5 ton Fujitsu VRF heat pumps, including new ductwork that reduce the number of air handlers from eight to five.
- A new Facilities Director is expected to come on board any day, at which time efforts will resume to develop a scope of work for conducting investment-grade energy audits on a suite of municipal buildings,
- Continuing to work with CPW and Weston & Sampson to advance efforts to establish a stormwater utility for Concord. An article will be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant to seek authorization to move forward with the creation of a Stormwater Utility.
- Working on updating the Sustainable Concord dashboard
- Continuing to coordinate with the CAC Chair and CMLP Energy Efficiency and Electrification Coordinator to advance the proposal to do a Town-wide 'Green Your Heat' residential energy campaign in 2024
- Participated in Town staff meetings to discuss the news that the Commonwealth announced that the MCI-Concord facility is scheduled to close permanently in summer 2024, and what that might mean for the Town.
- Participated in a MassDOT briefing on a traffic study being done for the Route 2 corridor, including several exchanges in Concord. A public meeting will be held in mid-February.
- Presented to the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle as a panelist to represent Sustainability as part of a 'Healthy Transportation' Forum on 2/2/24
- Met with Barrett's Mill Farm staff to discuss the possibility of adding an additional site location for the Town food composting program. The Sustainability Director has also been coordinating with Black Earth Composting to explore larger Town-wide food composting models, and is scheduled to speak with CPW to consider possibilities.