



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
Wednesday July 12th, 2023
7:00 PM
MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Location:

- In person: Town Hall, Select Board Room, 22 Monument Square., Concord, MA
- Virtual, you may join by video conference:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86703985289?pwd=QlJwL0pMdnVvd0hvWU0xRjFPVU9wZz09>

Meeting ID: 867 0398 5289

Passcode: 848440

Join via phone: (833) 928-4608, (833) 928-4609

1. Welcome – comments and announcements [7:00]
2. Meetings and minutes [7:10]
 - a. Approval of June 13th, 2023 minutes
 - b. Clerk tonight – Cheryl Baggen
 - c. *Upcoming meeting dates and clerks (Meeting Time: 7PM)*
Aug 8th (and subsequent first Tuesdays) – Clerk: Janet Miller
3. Chair's update (Brad) [7:15]
4. Director's update (Eric) [7:20]
 - a. Written update attached
 - b. Discussion of the Baker Ave 40B project – if CAC could help shape sustainability:
<https://concordma.gov/3385/37261/NOVO-Riverside-Commons-40B>
5. Updates from any work efforts: [7:30]
 - a. Residential Engagement (15 min)
 - b. Any others?
6. Vulnerability Assessment Proposal update [Paul] [7:45]
5. Further discussion on proposed CAC Working Groups and Projects [8:00]
 - a. Function of working groups
 - b. Proposed work efforts (superset)
 - i. Municipal Building Electrification
 - ii. Municipal Solar (participation on Task Force) [Gavin]
 - iii. Commercial Solar (in parallel with task force)
 - iv. Residential Engagement

- v. Transportation
- vi. Resilience/Vulnerability [Paul]
- vii. Progress/Metrics/Reporting
- viii. Policy (start Fall 2023) – preparation for 2024 ATM
- ix. Communications [Brad]

9. New business [8:50]

10. Public comments [8:55]

11. 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

Sustainability Director's Update

July 12, 2023

Recent Highlights

- Met with Matt Goldberg, CCHS teacher who teaches the AP Environmental Science class, to discuss possibilities for integrating local sustainability examples into the APES curriculum. We will continue communications through the summer to identify more specific opportunities.
- Met with Rob Munro, the Assistant Head for Academics and Equity at Concord Academy, to learn more about sustainability plans and interests on their campus and explore how CA and the Town can support one another. EV charging stations were a topic of interest, so I connected Rob with Jan Aceti (CMLP) and Mark Scribner (Energy New England, ENE) with the hope that ENE can possibly provide some free technical assistance. A meeting is anticipated between CA and ENE to determine how to best move forward with charging infrastructure on campus.
- Engaged in a conversation with CMLP and the property owners of 300 Baker Ave. (Taurus/RENU) to discuss the plans to install a 900kW solar array and battery storage at the property. Taurus/RENU originally proposed that it be a front-of-meter arrangement where CMLP would lease/control the batteries, but it appears that CMLP prefers a behind-the-meter arrangement where the batteries are owned/controlled by Plankton Energy, and CMLP may be able to tap into the batteries for peak load management (details still TBD). Taurus/RENU is moving to get their interconnection application to CMLP so that they can move forward with design once it's approved.
- Provided oral testimony on June 20th to the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government on H.2038, *An Act To Prohibit The Expansion Of Fossil Fuel Infrastructure For New Construction In The Town Of Concord*, sponsored by Rep. Simon Cataldo.
- Reached out to other Town departments/divisions to share the proposed climate vulnerability assessment proposal and draft support letter provided by John Bolduc and Paul Kirshen.
- Attended the UNH Sustainability Fellows Launch Event at Alnoba (Kensington, NH) as a mentor in support of our UNH Summer Fellow working on data and outreach for water conservation with CPW.
- Participated in a site visit for a new proposed residential development, NOVO Riverside Commons, at 292-294 Baker Ave. – a 201-unit project of 1-3 bedroom rental residences that is expected to include 25% affordable housing under 40B. **The Town is compiling comments from boards and committees to submit to MassHousing by August 8th.** Information about the project can be found here - [NOVO Riverside Commons 40B | Concord, MA \(concordma.gov\)](https://www.concordma.gov/NOVO-Riverside-Commons-40B)
- Participated in EV Working Group monthly call on 6/28 – topics included the new DOT interface that provides EV data on a town level, and the upcoming EV Test Drive event in Concord on 10/1/23. **CMLP would like help in advertising the event.**
- Participated in group communications with Town Counsel and representatives from Lexington and Acton for next steps on the Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program application process, including arranging a call with DOER to review the application process.

- Met with Brad and Jeff Eiden (Concord resident) to discuss Jeff's interests in residential engagement in support of CAC
- Met with Brian Foulds to discuss moving forward with a grant application to the EPA for funding to support the purchase of electric school buses and related V2G charging capacity for Concord.
- Had an introductory meeting with Fowler Library leadership to learn about their sustainability efforts and interests – they are very supportive of developing and promoting sustainability programs for their visitors
- Began to review background documents in anticipation of the first Solar Task Force meeting scheduled for the first week of August
- Began to review the RFQ responses received for the selection process of a consultant for the development of a Stormwater Utility. A selection panel meeting including interviews is scheduled for 7.20.23
- Continued weekly meetings with the UNH Sustainability Fellow

Recurring

- Participation in monthly EV Working Group meetings
- Participation in Planning Division meetings
- Participation in monthly DPW meetings
- Regular attendance at the bi-weekly CMLP Board meetings
- Participation in the CPS Sustainability Committee
- Participation in CFPL Sustainability Plan Implementation workgroup
- Participation in MAPC MAGIC meetings
- Participation in SuAsCo Climate Resiliency Coalition meetings
- Respond to residents inquiries regarding sustainability issues and initiatives
- Engagement in activity surrounding the MassPort proposed Hanscom Airfield Expansion
- Participating in an internal working group for the Town on efforts to consider the purchase and potential uses of the 2229 Main St. (Starmet) property