

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
Tuesday August 8th, 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:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81427799293?pwd=dkNoVUxDUzZDQk1qWDJpWE5qNnE3UT09>

Meeting ID: 814 2779 9293

Passcode: 366407

Via phone: 888 475 4499; 833 548 0276

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| 1. Welcome – comments and announcements | [7:00] |
| 2. Meetings and minutes | [7:05] |
| a. Approval of July 8 th , 2023 minutes | |
| b. Clerk tonight – Janet Miller | |
| c. <i>Upcoming meeting dates and clerks (Meeting Time: 7PM)</i> | |
| September 5 th (and subsequent first Tuesdays) – Clerk: TBD | |
| 3. Chair’s update (Brad) | [7:10] |
| 4. Director’s update (Eric) | [7:20] |
| a. Written update attached | |
| 5. Updates from Working Group efforts: | [7:30] |
| a. Metrics/Reporting – MAPC emissions inventory tool [Courtney] | |
| b. Residential Engagement – public events, CoolerConcord.org [Brad/Janet] | |
| c. Municipal Electrification/Schools [Jerry] | |
| 6. Municipal Solar Task Force report [Gavin] | [8:00] |
| 7. Vulnerability Assessment Proposal update [Paul] | [8:10] |
| 8. New business | [8:20] |
| 9. Public comments | [8:25] |
| 10. Adjourn | [8:30] |

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

August 8, 2023

Recent Highlights

- Met with Courtney Eaton to start discussions on moving forward with a plan to update the GHG inventory for Concord.
- Reached out to Bob Conry, with the intent of having sustainability considerations (e.g., GHG emissions) better integrated into the capital planning process for school building HVAC system replacements and other M&O efforts.
- Met with Rob Munro (Concord Academy) and Mark Scribner (Energy New England, ENE) on the CA campus as a first step to provide technical assistance for the Academy to plan for charging infrastructure on campus – ENE will take the lead. The Academy may be considering allowing public access to the charging stations in some capacity.
- Moving forward with a meeting with the Concord Business Partnership on Sept. 13th focused on energy efficiency opportunities for commercial property owners. CMLP (and possibly Natl. Grid) will be represented, and the owners of 300 Baker Ave. will share a case study of efficiency upgrades that are doing at that property.
- 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.
- Participated in EV Working Group monthly call on 7/26 – pre-registrations for the EV Test Drive event in Concord on 10/1/23 have been very strong.
- Met with DOER representatives, Town Counsel, and representatives from Lexington and Acton to share a draft application outline for the Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program – DOER legally couldn't comment on specifics, but they seemed to indicate that we're on the right track. CAC should consider whether an article should be considered to amend the current bylaw to include major renovations in the future (as most other participating towns are doing).
- 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. The Schools/School Committee were approached to be involved in a collaborative proposal and chose to support and pursue that pathway, which is an evolving situation.
- Finished participating in the selection process of a consultant for the development of a proposed Stormwater Utility. This is an action identified in the Climate Action Plan.

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

Built Environment

- Engaging with Concord Business Partnership and Taurus Investments (300 Baker Ave. owner), in conjunction with the Town and the Economic Vitality Manager (and hopefully CMLP), to develop a workshop for commercial property owners to 1) share planned efficiency upgrades for 300 Baker Ave., 2) highlight rebates and incentives, and 3) highlight the PACE program as a funding pathway.
- Working on the application process for the DOER Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program participation – coordinating with Town Counsel and other participating communities (via direct conversations and with ZeroCarbonMA)
- Coordinating with Building Dept. to determine any need for an informational session targeting developers/builders in anticipation of the Specialized Stretch Code implementation
- Continued participation as a member of the Middle School Building Committee
- Met with Town Planner to discuss engagement of Sustainability in planning initiatives, including the development of Site Rules and Regulations – intend to attend one weekly Planning staff meeting per month (in conjunction with the Economic Vitality Manager) to support regular communication between the Divisions
- Investigating pathways and strategies to foster improved collaboration and culture between the Schools and Sustainability, including through their capital improvement planning
- Engaged in discussions with Beede Center regarding planning for energy efficiency and reducing their carbon footprint, including potential solar

Transportation/Mobility

- Participated in review of Comprehensive Transportation Plan proposals and consultant interviews with the Planning Division
- Regular participation in monthly EV Working Group meetings
- Coordination with Schools to plan for applying for EPA Electric School Bus funding opportunities this Summer and Fall
- Seeking funding opportunities to increase EV charging infrastructure and station in Town

Energy

- Continuing conversations with Brian Foulds (CMLP Board Chair) and Laura Scott (CMLP) to improve understanding and discuss strategies to address CMLP infrastructure challenges to increased electrification demands
- Looking for opportunities to support CMLP and the Town in strategic planning efforts to determine how to best advance infrastructure improvements and load management for the local grid
- Participating in the new Municipal In-Town Solar Task Force to advance solar initiatives in Town

Natural Resources

- Supporting efforts to coordinate a tree planting initiative in conjunction with the 250th Celebration
- Planning for an updated Town-wide tree inventory/survey, and the development of a Master Tree Plan (in Climate Action Plan)

Resilience

- Participating in the CPW planning process to develop an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (in Climate Action Plan)
- Participating in the CPW planning process to develop a Stormwater Utility
- Co-managing a 2023 UNH Sustainability Summer Fellow with DPW, who will work on water data analysis and community engagement efforts
- Pursuing support and resources for a Town-wide Climate Vulnerability Assessment

'Cross-Initiative' Efforts

- Prioritizing and increasing community engagement initiatives, campaigns, and efforts for residential and commercial audiences across the entire Climate Action Plan
- Regularly attempting to identify and prioritize funding opportunities for a broad range of Climate Action Plan priorities
- Managing reporting for Town requirements and grant/program requirements (e.g., Green Communities)
- Managing reporting for progress on Climate Action Plan – would welcome help with this!