



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
Tuesday September 5th, 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 Zoom video conference 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 August 8 th minutes | |
| b. Clerk tonight – Gavin Colbert | |
| c. <i>Upcoming meeting dates and clerks (Meeting Time: 7PM)</i> | |
| October 3rd (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. Discussion on Grant Funding | [7:30] |
| a. Green Communities: October 20 th – competitive grant fall block applications due | |
| b. Electric bus grant | |
| 6. MBTA Communities Initiative (Elizabeth Hughes or Linda Miller) | [7:40] |
| 7. Updates from Working Group efforts: | [8:00] |
| a. Metrics/Reporting – MAPC emissions inventory tool [Courtney/Eric] | |
| b. Residential Engagement – public events, CoolerConcord.org [Brad/Karen] | |
| * Concord Ag day, September 9 th | |
| * Newsletter | |
| * MassEnergize update | |
| c. Municipal Electrification/Schools [Jerry] | |
| 8. Municipal Solar Task Force report [Gavin] | [8:30] |

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 9. Vulnerability Assessment Proposal update [Paul] | [8:40] |
| 10. New business | [8:50] |
| 11. 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

September 5, 2023

Recent Highlights

- Submitted Concord's application materials for participation in the DOER Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program. CAC should consider whether any action should be considered to amend the current bylaw to include major renovations and/or affordable housing in the future (as many/most other participating towns are doing).
- Continued discussions with Courtney Eaton to move forward with a plan to update the GHG inventory for Concord.
- Met with Bob Conry (CPS, Asst. Superintendent of Finance and Operations) to initiate discussions about how sustainability goals (e.g., GHG emissions) can be better integrated into the capital planning process for school building HVAC system replacements and other M&O efforts. The schools are planning to conduct an 'Existing Conditions Study' for their buildings that will include building conditioning systems and is anticipated to inform their capital planning.
- Continuing planning for a meeting with the Concord Business Partnership on Sept. 13th focused on energy efficiency opportunities for commercial property owners. CMLP and National 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.
- Continued to coordinate with other Town departments/divisions to share the proposed climate vulnerability assessment proposal and draft support letter provided by John Bolduc and Paul Kirshen. To date, I've received a letter of support from the Natural Resources Commission and am expecting a letter from the Transportation Advisory Committee (they voted to take that action). The Planning Board and the Public Works Commission are expected to discuss the request at their September meetings.
- Began a conversation and planning efforts with MAPC to complete the final outstanding task associated with the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update contract – the final task is a fall meeting of stakeholders to explore alternative site locations for Concord's Police/Fire services using the Envision process.
- Started efforts to develop a scope of work for conducting deep energy audits of municipal buildings (likely excluding schools) using dedicated ARPA funds for FY24.
- Participated in EV Working Group monthly call on 8/23 – pre-registrations for the EV Test Drive event in Concord on 10/1/23 have exceeded 100, with between 200-250 participants expected.
- Exploring pursuing an electric school bus funding opportunity through the MA DEP solicitation 'Massachusetts Volkswagen (VW) and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation'. Unfortunately, the collaborative proposal that CPS was pursuing for EPA funding for electric school buses this summer didn't materialize because of logistical issues beyond their control. We'll explore other EPA funding opportunities expected this Fall.
- Participated in a meeting with Rep. Carmine Gentile at the invitation of the Massachusetts MVP Coalition to petition support for increasing the MVP Program funding from \$25M to \$110M per year in the next Environmental Bond Bill, expected to be submitted this Fall. I shared the

impacts of previous MVP funding to Concord for tree planting and the creating of a tree planting guide in 2019.

- Met with Gary Kleiman, resident and currently serving on the Natural Resources Commission, to discuss sustainability initiatives in Town.
- Met with Matt Sepe (a local developer) at his request regarding sustainability considerations for a proposed subdivision at 1053 Main St./Parcel 80x