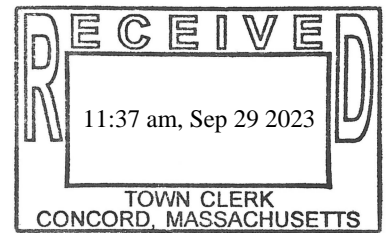


CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
Tuesday October 3rd, 2023
7:00 PM
MEETING AGENDA



Meeting Location:

- In person: Town Hall, Select Board Room, 22 Monument Square., Concord, MA
- Via Zoom – see details below

Note: this public meeting is in two parts:

Part 1

7:00 PM-8:00 PM is a joint meeting of the Climate Action Committee together with the Transportation Advisory Committee, which may be joined remotely by Zoom video conference through the following meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88105333192?pwd=Y1I0S0ZxS3p5OXlqSlNxSGxHMnl2dz09>

Meeting ID: 881 0533 3192

Passcode: 114405

Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

Agenda for the combined TAC and CAC meeting:

1. Welcome, introductions
2. Presentation by consultant on Comprehensive Transportation and Mobility Study – goals and priorities
3. Questions and discussion

Part 2

8:00 PM-9:00 PM is a shortened meeting of the Climate Action Committee, which may be joined remotely by Zoom video conference through the following meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84538297108?pwd=Ti90ODdwbFFqdDEyQmk0ZkZkZm55S3Z09>

Meeting ID: 845 3829 7108

Passcode: 453589

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

1. Welcome – comments and announcements

[8:00]

2. Meetings and minutes [8:05]
 - a. Approval of September 4th minutes
 - b. Clerk tonight – TBD
 - c. Upcoming meeting dates and clerks (Meeting Time: 7PM) November 7th (and subsequent first Tuesdays) – Clerk: TBD
3. Chair’s update (Brad) [8:10]
 - a. Written update attached
 - b. For next meeting - ideas for 2024 Town Meeting proposals
4. Director’s update (Eric) [8:15]
 - a. Written update attached
 - b. Updates on grant opportunities
5. Discussion of Transportation Advisory Committee meeting [8:20]
 - a. Where should CAC play a role
 - b. Liaison to the TAC for the comprehensive transportation study
6. Update on MBTA Communities Initiative (Cheryl) [8:25]
 - a. Discussion of September 20th community workshop
7. Updates from Working Group efforts: [8:30]
 - a. Metrics/Reporting (Courtney/Eric)
 - b. Residential Engagement – public events, CoolerConcord.org [Brad/Karen]
 - i. Update from Concord Ag day
 - ii. Update from EV Test Drive event
 - iii. Future event: CMLP 125th anniversary – Saturday October 14th
 - c. Municipal Electrification/Schools (Jerry)
 - i. Outreach to school on Alcott hybrid HVAC project
8. Municipal Solar Task Force report [Gavin] [8:50]
9. Public comments [8:55]
10. 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

Climate Action Committee - Chair Update - October 3rd, 2023

Brad Hubbard-Nelson

1. Chairs breakfast, not much to report besides the Comprehensive Transportation and Mobility Study discussed at our meeting
 2. After meeting with Eric Simms, Jerry Frenkil and others, sent a letter to Superintendent Hunter and school facilities director Bob Conry recommending we seek GC grant funding and proceed with the Alcott School hybrid HVAC approach.
 3. For residential engagement, check out the MassEnergize Communities Meeting on September 11th ([video](#)) on example campaigns from several other communities. This monthly "Community of Practice" meeting is for the 20 member communities to share strategies, learn from others experience and often features a guest speaker. Contact me if you'd like to get invitations to this. A few highlights:
 - a. How analytics are used to measure engagement (at 20')
 - b. Harvard: Flags for homeowners 'going green' who provide testimonials (at 29')
 - c. Acton: Oil neighborhoods heat pump campaign with Abode EM (at 36')
 - d. Lexington: LexElectrify campaign (at 51')
 - e. Wayland Saves Energy (at 55')
 4. Initial thoughts on a campaign we might do here next year:
 - a. Outline for *Concord Saves Energy* (or another name):
 - i. Energy Audits+Weatherization+Heat Pump coaching
 - ii. Focus on particular neighborhood(s), housing types? Equity considerations?
 - iii. Select vendors through an RFP for weatherization or heat pumps?
 - iv. Track impact: how many homes, what they do, GHG savings
- For example, we could do a 6-9 month campaign with goals of reaching 100-200 households. This would be a lot of work and would require some funding. Hoping to flesh out some of these ideas and discuss with CMLP this month for more detailed discussion at next meeting.
5. Also for next meeting: what Town Meeting articles might CAC want to propose or support.
 - a. What legislation would help us be successful?
 - b. What have other communities done that we could follow?
 - c. Is there a CAC member who would like to bring ideas together and plan this effort

Sustainability Director's Update

Eric Simms

October 3, 2023

Recent Highlights

- Co-hosted a meeting with the Concord Business Partnership on Sept. 13th focused on energy efficiency opportunities for commercial property owners. CMLP and National Grid were represented to share electrification planning and rebate/incentive information, and the owners of 300 Baker Ave. shared information about efficiency upgrades they are doing at that property.
- Met with representatives from Lexington and Acton to discuss implementation and communication efforts for the upcoming Specialized Stretch Code and the anticipated DOER Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program. CAC should consider whether any action should be taken in the next Town Meeting cycle to amend the current bylaw to clarify language on appeals, and/or include major renovations or affordable housing in the future (as many/most other participating towns are doing).
- Continued discussions with the GHG Inventory working group to move forward with updating the GHG inventory for Concord.
- Met with Municipal Buildings workgroup to consider strategies for supporting the Schools with capital and strategic planning to identify and fund electrification and efficiency efforts, particularly with the older elementary and admin buildings.
- Continuing efforts to develop a scope of work for conducting deep energy audits on a suite of municipal buildings. At the moment, this is not expected to include school buildings. Efforts included a conversation with an Ameresco representative to learn more about the 'energy services company, or ESCO' model, as a potential option other towns have used.
- Met with several Town boards and committees to share the proposed climate vulnerability assessment proposal and draft support letter. To date, I've received letters or statements of support from the Natural Resources Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee, Planning Board, and Public Works Commission. The Board of Health has also committed to provide a statement of support. The CAC needs to consider next steps for this effort.
- Efforts are ongoing to complete the final outstanding task associated with the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update contract, which is a meeting of stakeholders to explore alternative site locations for Concord's Police/Fire services using the Envision process.
- Participated in Concord Ag Day at the CAC / Sustainability table on Sept. 9th
- Participated in the monthly Conservation and Sustainability Coffee public meeting
- Participated in the first Transportation and Mobility meeting with Stantec (the consultant) to review the anticipated process for the study
- Participate in bi-weekly Solar Task Force meetings
- Met with Anne O'Connor from the Concord Bridge to discuss how individuals and the Town can respond to the anticipated impacts of climate change for an upcoming article
- Participated in the EV Test Drive event on October 1st co-hosted by CMLP and Sustainability.

- Explored pursuing funding for an electric school bus through the MA DEP solicitation 'Massachusetts Volkswagen (VW) and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation'. CPS was supportive of an application, but after some additional investigation it turns out that Concord recently scrapped its only bus that was 2009 or older, which is a requirement for eligibility. I'm continuing to explore other EPA funding opportunities expected this Fall.
- Met with support staff from Kim Lundgren Associates to discuss process for updating the Sustainable Concord dashboard
- Met with Newbury Court and National Grid to follow up on the results of the scoping study completed this summer at Newbury Court regarding boiler replacement and other efficiency opportunities
- Met with Cameren Cousins, the Director of Sustainability at The Fenn School, to discuss sustainability initiatives in Town and on the Feen campus.
- Met with a representative from Freewire, along with Jan Aceti (CMLP) and Mark Scribner (Energy New England), to learn more about their Level 2/3 hybrid EV charging platform and whether it might have any application for Concord.