

Meeting Minutes
Town of Concord
Climate Action Advisory Board
Wednesday, May 15, 2019



Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) was held on Wednesday June 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Select Board Room of the Concord Town House. CAAB members present were Brian Foulds, Brian Crouse, Jake Swenson, Pam Hill, Peter Nichol, Warren Leon, and John Bolduc. Also present was Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability and Kortni Wroten, sustainability office summer intern.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of May 15, 2019 were approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Chair's Report

This was delivered by newly appointed Chair, Brian Foulds.

- Brian presented the Cambridge Climate Action Committee proposed groundrules as a possible format for what is discussed at CAAB meetings. Upon a motion by Brian F. seconded by Pam H. the Cambridge proposed groundrules were adopted unanimously by voice vote. Refer to Cambridge proposed groundrules passed out at meeting.
- Brian F. introduced the idea of a liaison function for CAAB members. They would be assigned to monitor relevant Town committees and boards. The liaison might be a resource and provide expertise in addition to keeping track of issues arising in these committees and boards that might be of interest to CAAB. General discussion followed including the suggestion from Warren L. that any help or expertise from the CAAB be first vetted and approved by it. Brian will consider comments and return to the liaison concept at a subsequent meeting.

3. Director's Update

Refer to the Director's Update passed out at the meeting. Kate Hanley reported the following:

- Progress on two grant applications: the MVP action grant for the climate action plan has been approved. A grant for a tree resilience program was also awarded through the MVP action grant.
- The Request For Proposal for the Climate Action Plan consultant has been released.
- Kate is a member of the Middle School Planning Committee.

4. Middle School Discussion

This followed up on discussions at the previous meeting.

- Brian F. sought input on third party certification programs. Warren L. expressed skepticism. Brian expressed support.
- Brian F. asked for examples of net zero building success stories. John B. reported on two Cambridge schools that didn't achieve net zero for various reasons but came close, Martin Luther King and King Open School. He also mentioned a building at Hampshire College.

- Brian F. asked the Board to identify other examples of net zero building successes.
- Public comments were invited.

5. Transportation Discussion

The purpose was to identify goals and a vision for reducing emissions from transportation. It was an initial brainstorm. The following are some of the ideas offered:

- Examine zoning laws to find smart growth opportunities
- Consider driving alternatives such as MBTA train, Council on Aging buses, school buses, biking, and walking
- Examine infrastructure to optimize low energy-consuming transit
- Promote vehicle electrification
- Gather information about preferences, lifestyle, etc. through well-designed surveys; and about what it would take to change behaviors
- Be innovative about carpooling including promoting it officially, creating a town website, etc.
- Make biking attractive and safe with internet information on where to store and lock bikes, preferably with protection from weather, considering standard materials for sheltered bike racks that might call attention to them
- Make electric bikes available through town loans
- Impose a fee on less fuel-efficient cars
- Consider one-way and/or narrower streets to slow traffic mindful of safety issues for pedestrians and bikes

Public comment was invited. Suggestions included using Cross-Town Connect and better publicizing the Yankee Express bus from Concord to downtown Boston. Also suggested was linking Conantum walking paths/sidewalks to Lincoln walking paths/sidewalks through a simple extension of existing walkways.

The discussion concluded with a decision not to continue this preliminary transportation brainstorm but to wait for assistance from the consultant.

Meeting was adjourned 8:45 PM.
Minutes were prepared by Pam Hill