



**Town of Concord
Climate Action Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2021**

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a virtual public meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) was held on July 21, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Members present: Michael McAteer, Brian Crouse, Jake Swenson, Warren Leon, John Bolduc, Courtney Eaton.

Guests: Brian Foulds, Pamela Dritt

Minutes:

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the May meeting.

Chair updates:

Matt Johnson introduced himself as the new Select Board liaison. He is also the liaison to CSEP and the CMLB and the CMS building project.

The Chair announced that Ruthie Bennett has stepped down from the Board, and that Peter Nichol's term has expired.

He noted that Paul Kirshen will join in August. Paul Kirshen introduced himself to the Board. He is a UMass-Boston Professor on climate change adaptation.

The Board discussed recruitment for a new Sustainability Director. The Chair reported that the Sustainability Director search had yielded 60 applications, of which 30 met requirements, and 15 exceeded. The Chair noted that Assistant Town Manager Kate Hodges is interested in public input in the hiring process.

The Chair mentioned the approval of Article 31 at town meeting and asked if members of the Board had any specific updates to share since CAAB's last meeting in May.

Mike McAteer chimed in to state that Town meeting voted overwhelming support of Article 31 that requested a new town bylaw to require new construction of commercial and residential buildings be all electric. Article 31 also was a vote to request a Home Rule Petition from the Massachusetts legislature for the authority to implement it.

In addition the town will continue to work with the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) Building Accelerator team that includes 17+ cities and towns to identify a long term strategy to engage to facilitate a transition away from fossil fuel.

There was some discussion between all the parties involved that looked at focusing on a statewide strategy as the best approach for elevating the HRP request. Other communities felt that the more effective position would be to work with legislators to adopt a more targeted strategy that would concentrate on the specific GHG reduction goals published by each of the towns.

The salient point for this approach would be to demonstrate that the only way the towns could meet their individual carbon reduction targets would be to have this authorization to stop fossil fuel use in all new construction projects in the towns. The team will continue to meet and engage with legislators in this discussion.

Matt Johnson also noted that the Select Board is including Article 31 as part of its FY22 goals.

The Chair noted that CAAB had previously discussed adopting a Vice Chair position and that it would be helpful for the Chair and CAAB to have someone identified who could assist with meeting facilitation and other matters as needed.

Courtney Eaton expressed interest in the position. The Chair asked to see if anyone else was interested, no other members requested consideration.

John Bolduc moved that we add a Vice Chair to CAAB and nominated Courtney Eaton.

Mike McAteer seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

UNH Fellow Update by Hannah Lyons Cavazos

Topic: Energy Efficiency Financing Solutions

Hannah outlined her project focused on identifying financing solutions to advance energy efficiency in buildings. Through her interview process, Hannah identified several barriers for residents to engage in energy efficiency upgrades, including Financial, Administrative, and Legal

Primary solutions to the barriers identified to date include On-bill financing and Revolving loan funds.

Discussion:

Q: What has the feedback from heat pump coaches been?

A: They haven't mentioned financing much; it's not the biggest issue for heat pump adoption.

Comment from Warren Leon: People concerned about financing probably aren't reaching out to the heat pump coaches; the sample may be biased.

Suggestion: Can you put some #'s to what you are proposing. E.g. how much energy and carbon savings can you drive from a specific investment of money on average.

The group discussed challenges around adoption of residential low-carbon technologies and efficiency investments.

Presentation on Envision by Courtney Eaton

Courtney provided an overview of Envision and its applications to public projects. Envision is analogous to LEED- it is a multi-dimensional framework for assessing a project's sustainability and resiliency.

Public Comments:

Brian Foulds suggested a meeting with head of DPW regarding Envision.

Pamela Dritt emphasized need for zero-energy homes - <https://greenzerocarbonhome.com/>

The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.