



**Town of Concord
Climate Action Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 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 September 15, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Members Present: Brian Crouse, Paul Kirshen Michael McAteer, Courtney Eaton, Warren Leon, John Bolduc

Members of the Public: Jerry Frenkil. Doug Sharpe

Select Board Liaison: Matt Johnson

1. Welcome

The Vice- Chair, Courtney Eaton brought the meeting to order.

2. Meetings and Minutes

Upcoming meeting dates: 6pm on October 20, November 17 and December 15

Minutes of August 18 meeting were approved by all present

3. Chair's Update

Courtney mentioned the climate summit that was hosted by CMLP and was well attended. The topics discussed included the process and status of the current heat pump program offered to all Concord citizens and details of the towns effort to promote Electric Vehicles.

Brian asked about the intentions for future CAAB meetings to be scheduled for in person attendance or to be continued with virtual format. Michael suggested that perhaps one meeting before the end of the year might be scheduled for in person. Matt mentioned that most of the town meetings are still being held virtually. Most Board members seem to prefer virtual meetings due to convenience and that most people appear to be able to get on line to attend.

Courtney updated the Board on Envision and plans to attend the September 20 school committee for sustainability to introduce the process to the group. It is anticipated that the CMS schematic design will be complete in November. Courtney will keep the Board posted. Matt Johnson mentioned that he had spoken to Matt Root about Envision principles.

Matt Johnson updated the Board on the hiring status of the new sustainability director and that the final candidate has been selected and will be announced shortly.

No further Vice-Chair updates

4. Climate Action Plan Priorities Discussion and Updates

The Board was presented a summary of the Project Prioritization votes taken from 7 CAAB members that outlined the top 8 priority actions that were selected from the Climate Plans Blueprints. Courtney summarized these plan blueprints and engaged the Board members in a discussion. Each Board member took the opportunity to introduce their top choices and the basis of their selection.

Warren stated that there was a strong consensus on many of the top actions identified.

John felt that each of the priorities had a different level of effort and that perhaps the language for these actions could be made stronger if the direction for the town were more clearly stated. John also mentioned that he had one adaptation action to add to the priorities.

Brian stated that he felt it was very important that each of the priorities should be rated to how well the actions could be scalable.

Paul suggested that the focus while understandably is GHG mitigation that there should also be more positioning and explanations to support the role of adaptation in the plan. In this context John brought up the notion of transferability and that one climate condition may not affect all communities in the same way and to the same degree.

Warren and Courtney both mentioned the importance of getting CMLP to support these priorities as part of their business and operations plan. It was also stated that the oversight within these actions may be too broad and that defining outcomes might be helpful. It was also mentioned that trying different approaches might help to identify how to harness private capital to drive some of the priorities.

Paul mentioned that CSEC is focusing more on engagement strategies and that CAAB may be well served by furthering strategic policy directions.

Doug talked about the Library's Sustainability Plan and its connection to the Town's Climate Plan. He mentioned the importance that both these plans should be in sync with the goals and direction that will be developed by the new sustainability director.

John felt the first and third priorities are related and could be improved by merging them into one. In addition, it was mentioned that several adaptation blueprints could be combined with several of the top three priorities.

Courtney suggested that the Home Energy scores might be a low effort with high impacts. She also asked if priority 2 and 3 meld together well. In addition, there was broad discussion around the meaning of oversight to CMLP and what that means for both the role of CAAB and CMLP with respect to implementation. The Board felt that as whole adaptation actions should be foundational to a consumer education campaign though Warren cautioned that it not be the only focus.

Paul suggested that CAAB by identifying broad policy changes might well have more impact in achieving goals and creating more direction and outcomes from the Plan. He mentioned that adaptation and mitigation should go hand in hand as the blueprints are executed

Warren mentioned that in making choices CAAB will have a better chance of reaching goals by reducing the number of priorities and focusing on those with the most impacts.

Courtney brought up a hierarchy of actions that include (1) CMLP engagement (2) What does policy look like with HER (3) Vulnerability assessment.

5. Public Comment

Matt Johnson talked about Envision and other goals and priorities of other town committees.

Doug Sharpe brought up the need to address plastics and other materials in the environment that came out of his discussion with Debra's Natural Gourmet that focused on what the town can do to develop policies to support better practices.

Warren made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Brian