

**Meeting Agenda
Town of Concord
Climate Action Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 28, 2018



Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) was held on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Concord Town House. CAAB members present were Brian Foulds, Brian Crouse, Fran Cummings, Jake Swenson, John Bolduc, Michael McAteer, Nick Pappas, Peter Nichols, Ruthy Bennett, and Warren Leon. Also present was Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability, and Select Board Liaison, Alice Kaufman.

1. Welcome visitors

Kate Hanley called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Kate welcomed visitors and committee members to first meeting of CAAB, and asked committee members to introduce themselves.

2. Introductions (Committee members)

Committee members introduced themselves.

- Brian Crouse was a member of CSEC and Light Board previously.
- Brian Foulds was a member of Energy Futures Task Force and advisory committee for school buses, and has done a lot of advocacy and volunteer work in town on solar and renewable energy.
- Nick Pappas worked in the computer industry and then had an ice cream business. In Concord, he has served on CSEC, Public Works Commission, and Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee.
- Warren Leon is Executive Director of the Clean Energy States Alliance.
- Fran Cummings is a consultant with Peregrine Energy Group in Boston and has been leading the informal Carbon Free Concord interest group in monthly meetings.
- Michael McAteer was one of the founding members of the Green Team and worked at National Grid on strategic business and climate issues.
- John Bolduc was a member of the Natural Resources Commission and works as environmental planner for City of Cambridge, specifically on climate resilience planning, climate action planning, and building disclosure ordinance.
- Ruthy Bennett is an architect, LEED accredited professional and currently Director of Strategic Capital Programs at Tufts University as well as leading their carbon neutral by 2050 planning.
- Jake Swenson moved town recently and works at Staples on sustainability, focusing on array of topics around reducing environmental impacts and carbon reduction plans.
- Peter Nichol teaches at the high school and is interested in how the school can adopt a vision for sustainability.

3. Board organization

Kate Hanley reviewed the board's charge. The origin of the committee is Article 51 from the 2017 Annual Town Meeting that committed the Town to 80% GHG reduction by 2050, created the Director of Sustainability position and recommended a committee to advise the town on achieving the goals. An article at the 2018 ATM urged the town to address climate resiliency, so in forming this committee the charge was made intentionally broad to include both mitigation and resilience, both aspects of climate action.

Kate mentioned that her personal goal for the committee is for it to provide a sounding board, go-to-advisors, and big-picture thinking for strategies that the Town should be taking to achieve climate goals. Also, to prioritize actions knowing that there is a lot we can do and a lot we have to do to meet our goals.

Alice Kaufman said she is really excited for the committee to be getting off the ground. When we hired the first Director of Sustainability we realized that everything falls under the title sustainability and that we needed a really good sounding board with strategic thinkers to help think through what are the biggest priorities and our implementation strategy.

Kate mentioned that the Comprehensive Sustainability and Energy Committee (CSEC) is still in existence and focusing on sustainability as well. Their charge was revised this year to better reflect their evolution over the years to focus on community engagement around energy and sustainability. In the past they've worked on projects including a solarize campaign, a Cooler Concord fair, EV event promotion, and HeatSmart. Kate said she sees their charge and CAAB's working well in tandem.

Warren Leon asked if the committee should be a place for generating ideas or coming to consensus about recommended actions.

Alice Kaufman said there is no shortage of ideas and the committee should be helping identifying which ones are the most actionable and most impactful in meeting our goals. We have a paid staff member of one and CSEC to help implement strategies. This committee should be helping us prioritize.

Michael McAteer suggested the committee be more of a business planning group to get agreement and guide other groups in implementing and engaging the community.

Brian Foulds mentioned that there are structural and policy barriers to change in town and the committee could help to identify these barriers to move forward with sustainability initiatives.

John Bolduc said that we need a framework, strategic plan, or roadmap to help the Town think about policy and program options to help meet our goals, specific to Concord. The committee should also consider how we are going to pay for these programs.

Kate mentioned that she wants this group to advise what goes into our climate action plan.

Ruthy Bennett suggested that we draw on other climate action plans instead of starting from scratch.

Kate asked the board to decide on a regular meeting schedule. The board decided on regular meetings on the third or fourth Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

Kate asked for volunteers to chair the committee. Nick Pappas volunteered. Ruthy moved to appoint Nick. Unanimously approved.

Kate asked for volunteers to clerk the committee. Kate offered to record all the meetings to help the clerk in preparing minutes. Warren Leon suggested that we make the clerk a rotating duty. The board unanimously approved rotating clerk duties. Kate offered to make a schedule of clerk duties.

4. Sustainability Director update (Kate Hanley)

Kate Hanley mentioned that she will do a regular Director's update at all meetings.

Kate updated the board on priorities from her first year as Director of Sustainability:

- Engaging and collaborating with the community including Town departments, committees, schools, businesses, and community groups
- Communications and branding including sustainability logo, landing page on Town website, and social media
- Evaluating baseline for climate action, both mitigation and resilience through the GHG inventory (mitigation) and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program (resilience)

Kate provided additional details about the MVP grant program. The Town received \$33,000 this summer from the state to participate in the MVP program. This includes completing Community Resilience Building Workshops, which were held in September. Town staff and community members were invited to discuss what climate hazards are concerning, identify Concord's strengths and vulnerabilities to climate change, and brainstorm actions that the community could take to be more resilient and prepared for the impacts of climate change. The next step is to submit the report to the state. Then Concord will be eligible for MVP Action Grants, which is an opportunity for additional funds.

Kate reports that the Town hired Kim Lundgren Associates to complete a town-wide and municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. Both projects are wrapping up this year. Kate introduced Jen Dudgeon to give a presentation of the preliminary results.

5. Presentation and Discussion of GHG inventory (Kim Lundgren Associates)

Jen Dudgeon, representative of KLA, presented the preliminary results of the community-wide GHG inventory, which measures GHG emissions from all activities within the Town of Concord. Jen mentioned that KLA has the report drafted but there is still time to incorporate feedback from the committee.

The top takeaways included:

- Total community-wide GHG emissions increased about 4% from 2008 to 2016
- Population increased about 4% during that same time period
- The majority of community-wide GHG emissions come from buildings (about 60%), with another almost 40% coming from transportation and about 4% from waste

- Building energy used per capita and per square foot decreased, indicating that people are adopting energy efficiency technologies and behaviors
- Waste emissions and transportation emissions per capita increased, indicating that people are disposing of more and driving more
- Natural gas emissions increased while fuel oil emissions decreased, indicating fuel-switching is occurring for heating and cooling in buildings

The board discussed the preliminary results, specifically data gaps and need for further analysis. Suggestions included identifying additional and/or more accurate data for Concord-owned vehicles and heating sources for buildings.

The board recommended that the projections for future GHG emissions be based on the rate of change seen from 2008 to 2016 instead of a model which showed a dramatic increase in emissions based on GDP and population growth. The board agreed that this would still tell the story that if we do nothing to mitigate our emissions, our community-wide emissions will continue to increase and we will not achieve our GHG goals.

Jen reported the next step for KLA is to complete a “wedge” analysis, which will quantify the potential GHG reductions from specific strategies. Jen shared a list of possible strategies to analyze including EV adoption, heat pump adoption, CAFÉ standards, reduction in waste, and state initiatives. The board recommended that we consider additional wedges including building energy efficiency, electricity supply, land use change, in-town renewables, energy user index standard for buildings, commercial building codes, and net zero.

Lori Gill-Pazaris commented that Article 23 from Town Meeting 2018 was not presented in terms of emissions reduction, but rather that maintaining natural balance in Concord we can sequester carbon. PNAS has claimed that nature-based solutions can sequester up to 37% of the carbon in the atmosphere globally. Lori suggested that we have a lot of modeling about emissions but not as much modeling about sequestration and recommended that there be a wedge for sequestration potential.

The board discussed this suggestion and agreed that a wedge on sequestration would be too abstract to calculate for this analysis but that a wedge on land use could be useful.

Gordon Brockway commented that the future of rooftop solar is uncertain given that the SREC program is ending. Brian Foulds responded that the Light Plant can opt-into the SMART-like program for municipal light plants that will enable Concord residents to receive an incentive for installing solar. The board discussed and agreed that solar should be considered as a possible wedge.

Next steps: Jen said that KLA will incorporate feedback into the final report to be delivered to Kate. KLA is also completing an inventory of GHG emissions from municipal operations. There will also be a methodology report. Kate will share the final reports with the committee and make it available on the Town’s sustainability website.

Michael McAteer commented that the board poked a lot of holes in the inventory, but that the analysis is well done and very helpful for future planning.

6. Liaison and public comments

Lindsay Kafka commented that she would also like to see net zero as one of the wedges.

Brad Hubbard-Nelson commented that net zero overlaps with the heat pump wedge, and that EVs overlap with the CAFÉ standards wedge.

Lori Gill-Pazaris encouraged the board to look into the sequestration potential in Concord.

Alice Kaufman reminded the board to send comments on any data or reports only to Kate Hanley, not to the entire group, in order to be compliant with open meeting law.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

Minutes were prepared by Kate Hanley.