



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Susan Morris, Chair  
 Laura Olton, Vice Chair  
 Catherine Mirick  
 Ellen Korpi  
 Martha Collins  
 Fred Bunger  
 Lise Olney

### Climate Action Committee Meeting

January 6, 2023

Remote Zoom Meeting

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Sue Morris. Present were Climate Action Committee (CAC) members: Sue Morris (CAC Chair), Laura Olton (CAC Vice Chair), Lise Olney, Martha Collins, Catherine Mirick, Fred Bunger, and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Sustainability Analyst), and Gail Sullivan (Advisory Liaison), Mary Gard, and Phyllis Theerman. Absent: None.

**Citizen's Speak:** None

#### **Minutes**

Janet Mosley shared the December 2, 2022 meeting minutes with amendments requested by Martha Collins. Fred Bunger moved to approve the December 2 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Ellen Korpi, *and the Committee voted to approve the December 2, 2022 meeting minutes.*

#### **Opt-in Specialized Building Energy Code**

Marybeth Martello shared her plan for outreach to promote adoption of the Opt-in Specialized energy code at Annual Town Meeting (ATM) 2023. Committee members emphasized the importance of focusing on outreach to Town Meeting members and opinion leaders in Wellesley. The committee further discussed resources to be made available on the topic, timing of outreach efforts, and messaging.

#### **Plans for CAC Presentation to Advisory**

Marybeth's presentation to Advisory Committee on January 11 will focus on the CAC's fiscal year 2024 budget request with a brief reminder of the warrant article asking Town Meeting to adopt the Opt-in Specialized energy code co-sponsored by the CAC and Select Board.

### **Next Steps for PACE Program**

Marybeth provided an update on progress made towards Wellesley opting into MassDevelopment's Property Assessed Clean Energy finance program for commercial buildings. Marybeth explained that the administrative work associated with the program would be carried out by the Treasurer's Office, not the Assessor's Office. Executive Director Meghan Jop and Treasurer Maura O'Connor have indicated they are willing to support the program. Next, Marybeth will ask Robert Dolan, MassDevelopment's Vice President of Green Finance, to present on and answer questions about PACE at the Select Board meeting on February 7.

Fred moved that the CAC recommend the Select Board adopt the MassDevelopment PACE program. Ellen Korpi seconded the motion, *and the Committee voted to recommend the Select Board adopt the MassDevelopment PACE program.*

### **Update on EV Charging**

Dave Cohen provided updates from the Electric Vehicle (EV) Working Group including:

- The Department of Public Works (DPW) just put its first EV – a Chevy Bolt – into service, and six more EVs have been ordered including Ford Lightning pick-ups and Ford Transit vans. The library also ordered an EV.
- DPW installed three dual head level two chargers and one DC fast charger for fleet use.
- The Library is planning to install a charging station, likely only for use by library vehicles.
- There are new public charging stations going in at the Middle School, Police Department, and Town Hall.
- Select Board recently adopted rules and regulations for EV chargers under their jurisdiction.
- Moving forward, Traffic and Parking will own the function and administration of public chargers with the support of DPW for maintenance and expertise.
- The goal of the EV Working Group is to develop a strategic plan for EV charging infrastructure.

The committee discussed:

- How to best communicate the location of the public charging stations via signage, the Town website, and smart phone apps.
- The need to develop and communicate a strategy for where the Town plans to locate public charging stations and why.
- Installation of charging infrastructure on private property for overnight charging is preferable to minimize the need for public chargers and to avoid increases in peak electricity demand during the day.

Marybeth noted that she shared a draft EV First municipal fleet policy with the EV Working Group and hopes to discuss it at the next working group meeting.

### **Priorities for 2023**

Marybeth shared a list of projects that are priorities for the first half of 2023.

- CAC website
  - Dashboard to track progress on Climate Action Plan
  - Climate Action Hub to inform the public about the most important climate actions, steps for taking action, and available resources

- Increasing dialogue and collaboration with the Charles River Chamber of Commerce, which could include:
  - Additional presentations to the chamber
  - Publishing events in the chamber newsletter
  - Collaborations across towns on:
    - Energy coach program
    - Business outreach
    - Heat pump education for heat, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) installers
    - Shared branding where it makes sense for certain efforts
      - Newton’s “4 for our Future” website is a great model for Wellesley’s Climate Action Hub
- Energy coach program collaboration with Wellesley Municipal Light Plant
- Planning for occupant behavior programs at new elementary schools
- Project for Babson Master’s students to help the Town with strategy and outreach for heat pump adoption, food waste diversion, and planning EV infrastructure for residents in multi-family homes

**Project Updates**

The heat pump webinar scheduled for January 18 had over 100 registrants within two days of posting the event.

**Adjourn**

Fred moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m., seconded by Martha Collins, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*

**Exhibits used:** Amended December 2 Meeting Minutes; January 6 Project Updates; Specialized code road show plan; CAO activities list