



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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

### Climate Action Committee Meeting

February 3, 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 Bungler, and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Sustainability Analyst), and Gail Sullivan (Advisory Liaison), Cynthia Mahr, and Lisa Wolf. Absent: None.

**Citizen's Speak:** None

#### **Minutes**

Laura Olton moved to approve the January 6 meeting minutes, seconded by Ellen Korpi, *and the Committee voted to approve the January 6, 2023 meeting minutes.*

#### **EV School Bus Update**

Cynthia Mahr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations at Wellesley Public Schools (WPS), spoke briefly about the research and analysis she and her staff have carried out to determine the costs and benefits and the best way to shift Wellesley Public School Buses from diesel to electric. Cindy answered various questions from the committee about EV school buses and the WPS busing program in general.

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

Marybeth Martello shared her schedule for outreach to promote adoption of the Opt-in Specialized energy code at Annual Town Meeting (ATM) 2023. Marybeth has started to meet with developers, architects, realtors, and attorneys to hear their thoughts and concerns about the Opt-in code and building electrification. She is also working to line up building professionals to participate in the two webinars she is planning on the Opt-in code. The first webinar is intended for building professionals and the second on March 8 will be for Town Meeting members, municipal leaders, and the general public. Marybeth will also present at the February 8 Housing Task Force meeting on the implications of the Opt-

in code on affordable housing. Marybeth is developing a page on the CAC website to share educational resources on the Stretch and Opt-in codes. The Advisory Committee public hearing on the entire warrant is on February 9. Marybeth is working with Gail Sullivan to create material on the Opt-in code to include in the Advisory Book.

Ellen Korpi moved to approve the motion language for the Opt-in code warrant Article 36, subject to Town Counsel approval. Fred Bunker seconded the motion, *and the committee voted unanimously to approve the motion language for Article 36.*

#### **Proposed Transportation Coordinator Position**

Executive Director Meghan Jop described the potential transportation coordinator position the Select Board may include in its fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget request to Town Meeting. Meghan answered questions from committee members about the potential position.

Ellen moved that the CAC recommends the Select Board include funding in the FY 2024 for a new position for a transportation coordinator. Martha seconded the motion, *and the committee voted unanimously to recommend the Select Board include the proposed transportation coordinator position in the FY 2024 budget request.*

#### **WHA Letter Advocating for conversion of gas stoves to electric in Morton Circle/Wash St. Apts.**

The committee discussed the need to support Wellesley Housing Authority's (WHA) funding request to convert gas stoves to electric stoves in the Morton Circle/Washington St. apartments.

Fred made a motion that the CAC should write a letter in support of WHA funding for stove conversions. Ellen Korpi seconded the motion, *and the committee voted unanimously to write a letter in support of WHA funding for stove conversions.*

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

Robert Dolan, MassDevelopment's Vice President of Green Finance, will attend the February 13 Select Board meeting at 4:30 pm to answer questions about Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) finance program for commercial buildings.

#### **Natural Gas Leak Legislation**

Lise Olney described three new bills in the state legislature related to natural gas infrastructure and leaks that the CAC may want to advocate for in the coming months. Lise answered several questions from committee members on the three bills.

#### **Additional Business**

Ellen Korpi requested CAC members watch and share the new public service announcement from Municipal Light Plant Director Don Newell addressing concerns about electricity rate increases, the renewable power portfolio, and distribution system.

#### **Adjourn**

Martha Collins moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m., seconded by Fred Bunker, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*

**Exhibits used:** January 6 Meeting Minutes; February 3 Project Updates; Specialized code road show plan; Draft Motion language for warrant Article 36