



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL · 525 WASHINGTON STREET · WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

Sustainability Director: Marybeth Martello

[ClimateAction@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:ClimateAction@wellesleyma.gov)

CAC Analyst: Janet Mosley

[jmosley@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:jmosley@wellesleyma.gov)

Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cynthia Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

### Climate Action Committee Meeting

February 4, 2022

Remote Zoom Meeting

#### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Laura Olton. Present were Climate Action Committee (CAC) members: Laura Olton (CAC Chair), Sue Morris (CAC Vice Chair), Lise Olney, Fred Bungler, Martha Collins, Cynthia Mahr and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Climate Action Committee Analyst), and Doug Smith (Advisory Committee).

**Citizen's Speak:** None

#### **Minutes**

Laura Olton motioned to approve the minutes from January 14th, seconded by Fred Bungler, *and the Committee voted to approve the minutes.*

#### **Green Communities Grant Awards**

Janet Mosley announced that on January 31<sup>st</sup> the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) awarded Wellesley a \$200,000 Green Communities grant. The grant covers \$180,000 to replace propane heaters with heat pumps in the three Department of Public Works (DPW) water treatment plants, \$10,000 for an LED lighting retrofit in the water and sewer garage, and \$10,000 to support the purchase of hybrid police cruisers.

#### **Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

- **CAP Launch - Timing and Details**

Marybeth announced that the CAC will publish the Climate Action Plan and a CAP summary next week. Links to the CAP and summary will appear on the Town's climate action website. The CAC will also issue a press release about the CAP.

- **Discussion of CAP Implementation Blueprints**

Marybeth led a discussion of CAP implementation Blueprints in progress. Committee members noted the utility of blueprints for planning and communicating climate action steps. Members also underscored the importance of community outreach across nearly all blueprints.

**Planning Sustainability Article and Preparation for Annual Town Meeting**

Lise Olney expects the Climate Action Committee to be involved with the presentation of Annual Town Meeting 2022 Article 29. This article, co-sponsored by the Select Board and CAC, seeks to change the Sustainability Director's reporting line from the CAC to the Executive Director of General Government Services. Lise will check with the Select Board about the Annual Town Meeting presentation for this article.

Ellen Korpi said the Department of Public Works will return to the CAC to present the Storm Water Enterprise Fund and will seek the CAC's support for the ATM 2022 article proposing this fund. Ellen noted that the enterprise fund will not cost the Town more money. The Town must pay a stormwater fee regardless of the enterprise fund. The enterprise would require all users in Town to pay, not just the taxpayers. Therefore, the enterprise fund lowers the cost for taxpayers.

Martha asked if the Advisory book will reflect CAC support for the Planning-sponsored sustainable zoning articles. Doug Smith requested Advisory include the CAC's memo about the sustainable zoning articles in the Advisory book.

**Climate Action Committee Process for Providing Testimony and Letters in Support of Legislation**

Laura led a discussion about the need to streamline the Committee's process for providing testimony and/or letters in support of proposed state legislation. Laura recommended that letters and testimony be made on behalf of the Committee, rather than by individuals. Laura also asked how the CAC can effectively and efficiently review and potentially support the continuous stream of pending climate-related legislation. This discussion is ongoing since supporting certain climate legislation, policies and rulemakings are elements to implementing the CAP.

**Additional Business**

The CAC's next meeting date is March 4th, however Marybeth proposed moving that meeting to March 11th to allow time for the CAC to review the CAC's report to Annual Town Meeting. That report will contain the Town's GHG inventory results. The committee agreed to move its meeting to March 11th.

Cindy Mahr shared an update on the swing space transportation for Hunnewell School students. Schools plan to offer free bus transportation for all Hunnewell students to encourage more bus ridership to swing space locations. She asked for the CAC's assistance in creating talking points about the environmental benefits of taking the bus. Marybeth and Martha will meet with Cindy to discuss.

**Adjourn**

Fred Bunger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 A.M., seconded by Martha Collins, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*