



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cynthia Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

Climate Action Committee Meeting

March 3, 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, and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Climate Action Committee Analyst), Doug Smith (Advisory Committee), Mary Gard, and Phyllis Theermann. Cynthia Mahr was absent.

Citizen's Speak: None

Discussion and Vote on Letters Regarding the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' (DOER's) Straw Proposal for a Specialized Opt-in 'Net Zero' Stretch Code

The Committee discussed two comment letters calling on the DOER to strengthen its Straw Proposal for a Specialized Opt-in 'Net Zero' Stretch Code. Comments on the Straw Proposal must be filed with the state by March 18, 2022. A Wellesley-specific letter identifies Proposal shortcomings and notes the importance of a true net zero code for meeting Wellesley's climate goals. A sign-on letter from the Building Electrification Accelerator-Rocky Mountain Institute group (BEA-RMI) and Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) notes deficiencies with DOER's proposal and provides extensive background documentation. As reflected in both letters, the Straw Proposal should:

- Have a clear definition of net zero energy: "An energy efficient, all-electric, low embodied carbon building that achieves carbon neutral building operation through the production and/or procurement of renewable energy."
- Include major renovations.
- Require fossil fuel free equipment.
- Support EV charging.
- Support life cycle assessment of embodied carbon.

- Support at least a 30% reduction in energy use from the current Stretch Code, if not adoption of Passive House standards, to meet Wellesley energy use intensity targets.

The CAC discussed Straw Proposal deficiencies and expressed support for the letters.

Martha Collins motioned for the CAC to sign the Wellesley-specific letter and the BEA-RMI/NEEP letter and to recommend the Select Board also sign these letters. Fred Bunger seconded, and the *Committee voted to sign both letters and recommend the Select Board sign the letters*. Ellen Korpi and Lise Olney were unable to vote because they were just re-elected and had not been sworn in.

Laura Olton and Lise Olney discussed letter submission logistics, pending the Select Board vote.

Additional Business

Marybeth noted the need to step up public-facing work on CAP implementation, including mobilizing public-facing departments. Ellen Korpi opened the door to the possibility of helping the Wellesley Free Library become a resilience hub, a resource for information and education on climate action and resilience, and possibly a physical site of resilience with the potential installation of solar, battery storage, and a microgrid. Marybeth met with Cara Rothman of the Library to discuss opportunities related to educational materials, display cases, a speaker series, workshops, and meeting space. Ellen commented that the Facilities Management Department is reviewing a Request for Proposals drafted by the Municipal Light Plant for solar plus storage at the Library. WECARE funds could support this project.

Adjourn

Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 A.M., seconded by Martha Collins, *and the Committee voted to adjourn*.