



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Sustainability Director: Marybeth Martello
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Sustainability Analyst: Janet Mosley
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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

May 5, 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, Fred Bunger, Catherine Mirick, and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Sustainability Analyst), and Gail Sullivan (Advisory Liaison).
Absent: None.

Citizen's Speak: None

Minutes

Janet Mosley shared Lise Olney's suggested amendments to the April 7 meeting minutes regarding the Gas Leaks Working Group and the letter to Wellesley's state representatives to co-sponsor H.3137, An Act Relative to Intervenors and Utility Work. Fred Bunger moved to approve the April 7, 2023 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Laura Olton, *and the Committee voted to approve the April 7, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.*

ATM 2023 Article 36 re: Municipal Opt-in Specialized Energy Code

Committee members expressed appreciation for all those who contributed to the effort to adopt the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Energy Code.

Lowell geothermal pilot and the Future of Clean Heat Bill

Lise Olney shared the status of current networked geothermal pilot projects and how the new Future of Clean Heat Bill (SD. 2105/H.3203) would require natural gas utilities to make a plan to transition away from natural gas by 2050. Lise answered questions from the committee related to the networked geothermal projects and the Future of Clean Heat Bill. Lise also described An Act Establishing the Municipal Reforestation Program (S.452/H.869), which would require municipalities to develop plans for reforestation and would provide resources and technical assistance to help with the plans, especially environmental justice communities.

The committee recently sent a letter asking Alice Peisch to co-sponsor H.3137, An Act Relative to Intervenor and Utility Work. Lise is planning to draft another version of the letter to ask Senator Creem to sponsor similar legislation in the senate. Lise asked for and received approval from committee members to speak on behalf of the CAC on this topic at upcoming hearings.

Climate Action website and campaign

Marybeth would like to work on developing a website that functions as a how-to hub for residents to take action. Marybeth shared two versions of a new CAC home page as well as a concept for the how-to website centered around the “Sustainable Six” climate actions. Marybeth asked for feedback from the Committee. Committee members expressed positive initial impressions of the new website designs, and asked Marybeth to share the website mockups so they could provide her further feedback after the meeting. Marybeth also noted the need to come up with a plan to maintain the website.

Succession planning

Sue shared that she and Laura have spoken with 8 potential candidates to fill Laura’s position which will be open as of July 1. Two more interviews are scheduled. The position was recently posted more widely, so they may receive more interest. The evaluation criteria were revised based on feedback from the committee. Sue and Laura would like to make their recommendation for the new member to the committee at the June meeting. Sue and Laura have also been thinking about overall succession planning longer term and how to get more people involved.

Ellen Korpi requested that the attributes of the ideal CAC member be added to the position posting. Marybeth noted that they can be added to the announcement on the Town website. Martha Collins questioned changing the position description mid-way through the process given that candidates already interviewed may not be aware of proposed additions.

Climate Action Committee retreat planning

The committee discussed potential times for a retreat in early June.

Questions about Project Updates

- Ellen asked Fred about his QuitCarbon project, which is his ongoing effort to take a whole-home approach to electrify and improve sustainability overall based on a model developed by a group in California.
- Ellen asked for clarification on whether the Energy Coach program will focus only on heat pumps. Marybeth explained that it will start with a focus on heat pumps, but will expand as the coaches gain expertise.
- Martha reminded the CAC about the EV Test Drive and Showcase on May 11. Martha asked for volunteers and noted that there were still time slots available for test drives.
- Marybeth asked the committee to review the press release she drafted for Wellesley Wonderful Weekend (WWW) and asked for volunteers to help with waste diversion at several WWW events.

Additional Business: None

Adjourn

Fred moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 a.m., seconded by Martha, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*

Exhibits used: April 2023 meeting minutes, May 5 Project Updates, CAC website mockups