



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
Fred Bunger, Vice Chair
Martha Collins
Mary Gard
Ellen Korpi
Catherine Mirick
Lise Olney

Climate Action Committee Meeting

July 7, 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), Fred Bunger (CAC Vice Chair), Martha Collins, Mary Gard, Ellen Korpi, and Lise Olney. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Sustainability Analyst), Gail Sullivan (Advisory Liaison), and Lisa Wolf (MLP Sustainability Coordinator). Absent: Catherine Mirick.

Citizen's Speak: None

Minutes

Martha Collins moved to approve the May 5, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Fred Bunger, *and the Committee voted to approve the May 5, 2023 meeting minutes.*

Marybeth Martello shared Ellen Korpi's suggested amendments to the June 5 meeting minutes regarding Municipal Light Plant updates. Martha Collins moved to approve the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Fred Bunger, *and the Committee voted to approve the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.*

The Future of Clean Heat Bill (SD. 2105/H.3203)

Committee members asked questions about and expressed support for the proposed list of concepts from the Future of Clean Heat Bill (SD. 2105/H.3203) for the CAC to support.

Ellen moved that the CAC support of the concepts from the Future of Clean Heat Bill listed by Lise and Lise testifying on behalf of the CAC at legislative hearings associated with the bill. Martha seconded the motion, *and the committee voted in favor of supporting Lise's list of concepts from the Future of Clean Heat bill and her testimony and legislative hearings on behalf of the CAC.*

Climate Action Committee role regarding new buildings

Committee members talked about the role CAC should play in shaping new development in Wellesley. Discussion included the following topics:

- Should the CAC recommend the Town provide developers a list of aspirational requests or keep requests more realistic (keeping in mind that the CAC does not want sustainability to be an obstacle to increasing housing stock in Wellesley)?
- How should the Town balance resident demand for parking vs. support for public transit oriented development? Should the Town reduce the number of parking spaces required per unit in public transit accessible locations?
- Should the Town require a greater percentage of parking spots be EV ready than required by the stretch code considering that in 2035 all new vehicles sold in Massachusetts must be electric or hydrogen powered.
- What can be done to manage materials from demolition and new construction more sustainably?
- Can the CAC use a revised version of the Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines to provide guidance on what the Town would like to see in private development?
- The Building Working Group is looking into how changes to the Site Plan Review process help achieve more sustainable new construction
- How can the CAC work to minimize new connections to natural gas infrastructure and related gas leaks?
 - Would the Planning Board consider a ban on decorative gas lamps?
 - How might the Town regulate natural gas grills and fire pits?

Marybeth and Fred plan to summarize the sustainable buildings topics that CAC chair Sue Morris should discuss with Planning Board chair Thomas Taylor.

Engagement with Wellesley Public Schools

The committee discussed what role the CAC should play and what actions can be taken by the Town to ensure the new Hunnewell and Hardy schools as well as existing schools operate as efficiently as possible. Members agreed the next step should be to determine a list of best practices the CAC would like to champion, including periodic and ongoing trainings, and ask Catherine Mirick to promote these through her role on the School Committee.

Liaisons to other Town Boards/Committees

The committee discussed multiple options for strengthening the connection and communication between the CAC and the Planning Board and Natural Resources Commission (NRC), including:

- Liaisons from Planning Board and NRC attend CAC meetings
- CAC members attend Planning Board and NRC meetings
- Ask Planning Board and NRC members to attend specific, relevant CAC meetings
- Ask Planning and NRC member or staff to attend beginning of each CAC meeting to provide updates.

Outreach to Town Departments

Marybeth requested the assistance of some CAC members with the memo to Town boards, committees, and departments to remind them of climate resolution and the need to include their climate action work in the annual report and to consider climate impacts in their budgeting process. Mary Gard, Martha Collins, and Lise Olney volunteered to help.

Questions about Project Updates: None

Additional Business

- MIT-Wentworth report: A report completed by MIT, Public Policy for Net Zero Homes and Affordability, was used by the Home Builders and Remodelers of Massachusetts (HBRAMA) to claim the Specialized Energy code would drive up housing costs. Members of the climate action community have noted a number of inaccuracies, misstatements and errors in the report. Ellen Watts and others plan to meet with the authors of the report. The CAC may want to provide ongoing communication to Town Meeting Members regarding the publicity around this report and the Specialized Energy code.
- Demand Management/ Peak Demand: Lisa Wolf shared that Energy New England is developing an umbrella demand response program to leverage chargers, thermostats, and other smart home devices to reduce peak demand. ENE has not yet introduced the program in Wellesley. Lisa expects to learn more about the program soon and hopes Wellesley MLP will be participate. Phyllis Theermann is working with a volunteer to create a 3-minute public service announcement on peak alerts.

Adjourn

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

Exhibits used: May 2023 meeting minutes, June 2023 meeting minutes, July 7 Project Updates, Summary of concepts from the Future of Clean Heat Bill (SD. 2105/H.3203) for CAC to support