



## 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

March 6, 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 Bungler, and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director), Janet Mosley (Sustainability Analyst), and Gail Sullivan (Advisory Liaison), and Lisa Wolf (MLP Sustainability Coordinator). Absent: Catherine Mirick.

#### **Citizen's Speak:**

Jeanne Mayell of 27 Seaver St. advocated for the CAC to incorporate impacts on wetlands into its analysis of the climate impacts of Town projects including the Hunnewell Fields lighting project.

Josephine Okun of 15 Cottonwood Ln. asked the CAC to revisit their position on the Hunnewell Fields lighting project given the negative impacts on biodiversity.

#### **Minutes**

Approval of the March meeting minutes was deferred to the next CAC meeting.

#### **Climate Action Committee Report to Annual Town Meeting (ATM) 2023**

Sue provided committee members with the opportunity to share feedback on the CAC Report to ATM 2023. Martha moved to approve the CAC Report to ATM 2023. Fred seconded the motion, *and the committee voted to approve the CAC Report to ATM 2023.*

#### **Preparations for ATM 2023 Article 36 re: Municipal Opt-in Specialized Energy Code**

The committee and Marybeth discussed work to be done in the coming month to advocate for the adoption of the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Code including webinars, ongoing conversations with building professionals, and materials for the advisory book.

#### **Gas leaks working group**

Lise Olney proposed a working group focused on addressing the actions in the Climate Action Plan related to reducing natural gas leaks. The proposed membership of the working group is Lise Olney, Natural Resources Commission Director Brandon Schmitt, Department of Public Works Engineer Dave Hickey, and Mary Gard of Sustainable Wellesley. CAC members supported the creation of the gas leaks working group and the proposed membership.

**Support for HD.4047 (An Act relative to intervenors and utility work, filed by Rep. Jennifer Armini of 8th Essex)**

Lise provided an update on state legislation HD.4047 that would make it possible for municipalities to intervene in Department of Public Utilities proceedings and asked the CAC if the committee would be willing to send a letter to Wellesley's state representatives encouraging their support of the bill. Lise answered questions from CAC members about the bill and the content of the letter of support. Ellen Korpi moved that the CAC sends a letter, drafted by Lise and Laura Olton, requesting Representative Peisch co-sponsor HD.4047 and Senator Creem introduce HD.4047 into the Senate. Martha Collins seconded the motion, *and the committee voted to send a letter to Representative Peisch and Senator Creem in support of HD.4047.*

**ATM 2023 Article 42 re: new zoning proposed for 125 Oakland Street/Sisters of Charity**

CAC members agreed that it was not appropriate at this time for the committee to take a position on ATM 2023 Article 42 regarding new zoning proposed for 125 Oakland St.

**CAC membership and potential in-person meetings starting in April**

CAC leadership have spoken with several residents interested in becoming new CAC members. The position will be posted officially after the March Annual Town Election.

The CAC talked about the plan for in-person or hybrid meetings starting in April if the state legislature does not choose to extend the remote meeting allowance.

**Questions about Project Updates**

Sue Morris shared that the 3R Working Group is trying to restart food waste composting program at Wellesley High School, but in a different format than was tried previously.

**Additional Business**

- Reminders to vote in Town Elections on March 7 and to encourage Town meeting members to vote to adopt the Municipal Opt-in Specialized building energy code.
- Lise Olney encouraged CAC members to attend a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) workshop on Tuesday, March 14 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Zoom.
- MB: World of Wellesley member asked about a rep from CAC that might be interested in being a liaison to WoW to include an equity lens on various programs. Let MB know if you are interested. CAC has pledged to do this in CAP.

**Adjourn**

Fred Bungler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m., seconded by Ellen, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*

**Exhibits used:** Wellesley Trails Map shared by Josephine Okun; March 3 Project Updates; CAC Report to ATM 2023 Draft; HD.4047 template legislator letter