



SUSTANABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cindy Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

Climate Action Committee Meeting

June 4, 2021

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, Ellen Korpi, Martha Collins, Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director) and Janet Mosley (SEC Analyst). Not present: Cindy Mahr and Deed McCollum. Also attending: Mary Gard, Pamela Posey, Roopa Chandrasekaran.

Citizens' Speak

Wayne Everett, 29 Rice Street

Commented that Town Meeting has declared a climate emergency and that the proposed standalone lights around Hunnewell Field would consume significant energy, and, if approved, would represent the first challenge to the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

May Meeting Minutes Approved

Ellen Korpi moved to approve the SEC's May 7 meeting minutes, seconded by Fred Bungler, *and the Committee voted to approve the May 7 minutes.*

Climate Action Plan

Webinar for Town Meeting Members (TMM)

A CAP webinar, co-sponsored by the CAC and League of Women Voters of Wellesley will be held on June 14 at 7 PM. The purpose of the webinar is to educate attendees about the Climate Action Plan.

Working Group (WG) Summit

A Working Group Summit will be held on June 17 at 8:30 AM to meet with Kim Lundgren Associates (KLA) and discuss CAP goals and process. Breakout groups will give an opportunity to discuss specific CAP actions and how the working groups will work over the summer.

CAP Goals and Evaluation Framework

The group discussed the CAP goals and actions outlined in the KLA plan and discussed the relative weighting of framework criteria. Some felt that GHG reduction, which is the core mission of the CAC, should be the top priority.

Sustainable Zoning

The Sustainable Zoning Working Group, established at the request of Don McCauley and Marybeth Martello, is developing proposals for new zoning bylaws to consider presenting at the fall Town Meeting. These proposals include a requirement that Projects of Significant Impact and projects under Design Review explain impact on the town's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. The group discussed if proposals would address lighting and if proposals concerning Design Review would pertain to gut renovations or just exterior renovations.

Draft Municipal Comment Letter

The Committee discussed a letter from multiple municipalities to the Department of Public Utilities asking that towns have a voice at the table in discussions about what gas utilities are doing to help solve natural gas infrastructure problems and facilitate a shift to alternative sources for energy.

Fred Bunger moved that CAC sign the letter, seconded by Ellen Korpi, *and the committee voted to sign the letter.*

Project Updates

The committee deliberated on a draft statement reflecting CAC's position on the Wellesley High School (WHS) Stadium Lighting Proposal by the School Committee (SC). Martha recused herself from discussion of this statement.

The group noted that, while electricity provided by the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) is now approximately 46% carbon-free, the Wellesley MLP can't guarantee 100% renewable energy, and by extension, the SC can't claim that the standalone lighting would be powered by 100% renewable energy sources. There was a discussion regarding private funding for renewable energy certificates (RECs) as offsets. Lise noted that the town (and MLP) would have to commit to carbon-free in its full portfolio.

In keeping with Municipal Sustainable Buildings Guidelines (MSBG), CAC encourages the SC to follow guidelines to reduce energy consumption and draw from renewable sources and to maintain its position to one of advising, not approving. Laura noted that she would remove the last sentence in the draft statement and send it to the SC. Ellen Korpi moved that CAC issue the statement, seconded by Fred Bunger, *and the committee voted to issue the statement (with Martha recusing herself).*

Fred noted the Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS) and the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) proposals to change building codes to be stretch code compliant are open for public comment.

Additional Business

Fred and Martha's CAC member positions expire on July 1, 2021. Both members are actively involved and interested in staying on the committee for a 3-year term. No applicants were received to the March/April posting. Ellen Korpi moved to renominate Fred Bunger, Susan Morris seconded, *and the committee voted unanimously to renominate Fred Bunger.* Ellen Korpi moved to renominate Martha Collins, Susan Morris seconded, *and the committee voted unanimously to renominate Martha Collins.* Laura will forward the renominations to the Select Board for their review, as the appointments are made by the Select Board.

The committee also discussed that June 15 is the governor's deadline about online meetings. Lise noted that many assumed remote meetings would continue through the summer and that the Select Board has been discussing the matter. Many members voiced support for on-line meetings and Lise promised to take this feedback to the Select Board.

A new liaison from Advisory to CAC has not yet been determined.

Susan Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 AM, seconded by Martha Collins, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*