

Select Board Climate Action Committee Minutes

August 23, 2021, 6:00 pm.

Meeting held remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19

SBCAC Members (in attendance noted by Y/N)

Heather Hamilton, Co-Chair	Y	James Carr	N	Alan Leviton	Y	Kathleen Scanlon	Y
Werner Lohe, Co-Chair	Y	David Gladstone	Y	David Pearlman	N	Don Weitzman	Y
Dan Bennett	N	Dr. Swannie Jett	Y	Linda Olson Pehlke	Y	(vacancy)	~
Michael Berger	Y	John Harris	Y	Deborah Rivers	Y		

Staff: Director Thomas Barrasso

Guest: Ann Luske

After making sure that Committee members could fully participate in the remote meeting, Werner Lohe opened the meeting.

Minutes

The SBCAC agreed to postpone approval of the meeting minutes of July 26, 2021 until the next meeting.

Working Team (or Subcommittee or other) to Reexamine the Role of the SBCAC and Reorganize and Reduce the Size of the SBCAC (Collins Center recommendation, p. 18) by Warrant Article (Spring 2022 Town Meeting) -

Update: Heather and Werner updated the members. Not a lot to report. A memo sent to Mel Kleckner stating exactly what the Committee discussed at the last meeting.

- A smaller meeting with Mel at his discretion
- Forming a working team to start moving toward a warrant article for Spring 2022
- Restructure/reconsider the size of this committee
- The role the committee will have

Michael Berger: We need people on the committee that will bring needed talents and some substantive actions.

Thomas agreed and felt that the Collins report calls for a sort of technical focus.

Warrant Articles and Deadlines

Werner Lohe asked committee members if they have heard of any articles coming up.

Linda Olson Pehlke, stated that she's heard of several that have to do with residential parking requirements.

- Eliminate parking requirements for residential parking
- Planning Board is thinking of putting in to allow them more discretion
- To eliminate parking requirements on a case by case basis
- Better storm water management on site
- EV charges at every single parking space
- Ground source heat pump

Michael Berger stated that some warrant articles in the past have taken away from our focus.

Linda Pehlke, "We need a strategic plan. I feel we have to respond in case it becomes policy. I'm frustrated and I think we're heading in a bad place."

Deborah Rivers

A key part of the Collins report that I disagree with, prominence that the working teams been given. I am not sure it is a proven method.

Maiyam Baron, "I think we have a plan that we've been ignoring, as is most of the state. The Next Generation Roadmap bill that was signed and is still not being implemented".

Director Update

- Planning Director Alison Steinfeld will be retiring in the upcoming months
- Looking into different sources of funding at Federal, Municipal and State levels.
- Energy Conservation measures too back feed the economy and how to pay for it.
- EVS Fleet vehicles
- EV charging stations for Municipal use as well as for the public

Thomas told the Committee that he would need help with public outreach with rooftop solar and he is hoping to get it off the ground shortly.

Michael Berger asked how do we integrate a climate focus into all the plans we have already?

Thomas: difficult process to get all these plans together.

Werner Lohe: Need to focus on Climate and have a strategic climate plan. Do you have a written document?

Thomas Barrasso stated his focus is getting in some of these projects out in physical form. Moving forward is depending on funding. Whatever we get the funding for is where will start.

Need help to identify things that need to be done.

Werner Lohe; Send the plan out to the Committee so we can see what's been put in writing.

Stephen Ehrenber newly representative of the School Committee.

The Committee welcomed him and gave short introduction of themselves.

Stephen; Looking forward to being part of this group. Support green schools initiatives. Interested in Policy recommendations.

Driscoll School Geothermal

Thomas Barrasso

Driscoll CIP Geo Thermal back in the plan Budget between 2.5 – 5 million to do Geo thermal is it economically visible. As things evolve, I will be there.

Deborah Rivers; project is well underway I think this may be a little too late.

Kathleen Scanlon; Very High profile project. Need to

Deborah Rivers: Same importance on the Pierce school and it is not too late for Pierce.

Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARAP) Funds

Heather Hamilton spoke of the portal that's has been created for ARAP funds for people that wanted to submit ideas for projects.

Dr. Swannie Jett listed the areas where the ARAP funds could be used.

John Harris: Other eligible uses? On the Website

Anne Lusk introduced herself. Three new ideas for the American Rescue Plan that include street lighting, EV charging, and storm water management

She will attend a "By State Roads" Panel all DPW from the Commonwealth

Brookline needs to be innovative in our street lighting – we need street trees and night lighting tree limbs block night lighting LED soft dimmable lighting lower on a telephone pole. Below the tree line.

Electrical Vehicles charging stations on your home. Incentives to charging stations

Storm water Management- more beneficial to have lawn. Encouraging Homeowners, giving a benefit to homeowners.

Ideas for Funding

David Gladstone; the state is drawing data from 120 communities. Hardscape developments, lighting shades, trees. Subject matter experts from the state leveraging the top 5 or 6 ideas. Discussions happening at state level.

LP: urban forestry Master Plan identified areas vulnerable to heat island, makes sense for environmental justice to try and get some of this funding for implementation of this plan.

John Harris; In favor of EV charging (ARPA) and electric scooters as public health measures.

Air source heat pumps -- need to get information out to the public.

Sustainability Newsletter very helpful to residents.

Werner Lohe motioned to adjourn

Seconded by Don Weitzman.

Next Meeting Tuesday, September 4th.