

**Meeting Minutes**  
Town of Concord  
Climate Action Advisory Board  
Wednesday, January 15, 2020



Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) was held on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Concord Town House. CAAB members present were Brian Foulds, Courtney Eaton, Jake Swenson, Michael McAteer, Pam Hill, Peter Nichol, and Warren Leon. Also present was Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability.

## 1. Meeting Schedule

Brian Foulds called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Future meeting dates were reviewed. Kate Hanley noted that after multiple Doodle polls, there is no date in February where a quorum could be reached. Kate recommended in lieu of skipping a meeting, CAAB meet on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and then again at the regularly scheduled date of March 18<sup>th</sup>. KLA will facilitate the meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The committee agreed to this schedule.

The minutes from November 20, 2019 were approved unanimously.

## 2. Chair Update

Brian Foulds recapped an email he sent to the board expressing concern about the discussions at the November meeting regarding climate resilience and mitigation in respect to the scope of the Climate Action and Resilience Plan and the scope of the committee. Brian brought attention to a number of documents including a flow chart from January 2019 about how the plan would be developed and CAAB's role, CAAB's charge, and the scope of the climate action and resilience plan. Brian also reminded the board of the meeting rules and norms agreed upon at a prior meeting and encouraged the board to follow those procedures. He urged the board to focus on moving forward on developing the climate action and resilience plan as laid out.

Pam Hill shared that she believes the top priorities of CAAB and the plan should be on mitigation and implementing Article 51, and that the committee should be wary of muddled priorities.

Warren Leon said that we are committed in the report to talk about both mitigation and adaptation. The report needs to set priorities in both of those areas. He expressed that we have been drifting toward things that have been environmental and community benefits but are not directly linked to climate change. We should make a point that everything in the report be clearly drawn to climate mitigation and adaptation.

Michael McAteer said we need to create a roadmap of the strategic priorities for mitigation and resilience. He noted that he has had discussions with community members who have asked what we are doing to reduce emissions.

Brian Foulds noted that most of the suggestions he has seen come in focus on mitigation and is confident that the plan will prioritize actions that reduce emissions. He noted that one reason we

feel that we are talking about resilience so much may be because of discussions like the one we are having today.

Jane Hotchkiss asked about the timing of the MVP Action Grant and observed that the grant program may have created tension about the goals of the grant shifting the charge of the committee toward resilience.

Kate Hanley shared that Concord completed the MVP Planning Grant in 2018 which make Concord eligible for significant funding through the MVP Action Grants. She noted that the state has allowed communities to make the case the more you mitigate, the less you have to adapt, in order to include mitigation and resilience in projects funded by MVP Action Grants. She noted that this is a messy part of the process and mentioned that she goes back to Somerville's plan as an example of a plan that sets clear and ambitious actions for mitigation and resilience without compromising on either objective.

Brian Foulds requested the board vote on moving on to the next part of the agenda. The board voted in favor 5-2.

### 3. Director Update

(Refer to Director's report for full details)

Kate Hanley shared some highlights including completion of the sustainable landscaping handbook, updates on the middle school building project, and a project CSEC is working on sustainable.

Kate also pointed the committee to a written update on community engagement around the climate action and resilience plan. Kate noted that there are strong trends in what we're hearing from the community in what should be in the plan including working with the schools, battery storage, new building standards, retrofitting existing buildings, transportation planning, electric buses and cars, green infrastructure, sustainable landscaping, composting, tree preservation, local food, and zoning. She also noted that the community is calling for bold actions to reduce emissions.

### 4. Past Topic: *Sustainable Concord*

Kate Hanley reminded the board that draft fact sheets were prepared to clarify definitions of terms, set goals, and metrics of success. The fact sheets will serve as the introduction to the chapter on each element and can also serve as a standalone educational piece. In the final plan, the fact sheets will be followed by a list of priority actions and then an implementation blueprint for each priority action. The draft fact sheets shared with CAAB included a sample list potential actions. KLA and Kate are collecting a comprehensive list of potential actions.

Kate shared a document with combined feedback from CAAB (see [concordma.gov/climateplan](http://concordma.gov/climateplan)) and led the board through a review of the feedback.

### 5. New Topic: Potential Articles for Town Meeting 2020

Brian Foulds asked the board to consider town meeting articles that they want to discuss taking a position on and if they want to invite petitioners to join for a meeting. Brian noted that the board

had a discussion last year about whether they should be an activist board or a resource board when it comes to town meeting articles. He asked the board to consider whether they want to take position on articles and/or propose amendments to articles.

Pam Hill said that the board should take position on relevant articles.

Warren Leon said that the board should consider taking a position on articles that have climate change implications. Warren suggested we look at the articles and then decide how CAAB should engage.

Brian Foulds listed a number of Town Meeting Articles that the board might consider discussing including the CCRSD capital budget, prohibition of expansion of fossil fuels, electric school buses, electrification of municipal fleet vehicles, neonicotinoids, and planning board articles.

The board agreed to review the full warrant once it's published and to resume discussion at the next meeting.

Brian Foulds mentioned two recent requests from other groups. Matt Johnson from the planning board has approached Brian about CAAB being a resource. CAAB has also been asked about providing input for the Capital Planning Task Force.

Kate Hanley shared that at a recent League of Women Voters a representative from Westford shared that their process includes energy efficiency as a requirement/question in their process.

## 6. Public Comment

Pamela Dritt commented that regarding buildings, affordable is often used to mean cheaper, but even a small upfront expense to building to green codes creates affordable homes for residents. The costs are also decreasing.

Laura Davis noted that Mother's Out Front uses "a swift and equitable transition" as a slogan which may be a useful way to frame affordability issues. She also suggested that the community element also call out GHG mitigation as a goal.

Alice Kaufman recommended attending the public hearings on the warrant articles as an efficient way to get information about the town meeting articles instead of inviting individual petitioners to present.

Laura Davis noted that the agenda notes MOF on the distribution list but she hasn't received the agenda. Laura also noted that the draft fact sheets may benefit from clarifying broader goals such as cleaning the grid, electrifying, and changing behavior.

Minutes were prepared by Kate Hanley.