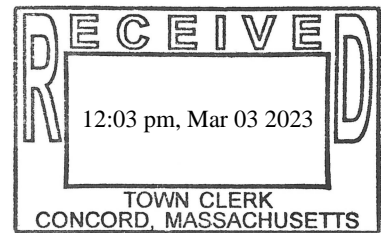


CAAB MINUTES
18 January 2023



Meeting Minutes recorded by: Brian Crouse, Meeting Clerk for Jan 2023 meeting

Meeting was virtual due to conflict in reservation of Select Board Room in Town House.

Attendees:

Eric Simms (Sustainability Director)
Matt Johnson (Select Board Liaison)

Committee Members:

Courtney Eaton
Brad Hubbard-Nelson
Ben Slayden
Gavin Colbert
Jake Swenson
Paul Kirshen
Brian Crouse

Other Attendees:

Andy Puchrik
Pamela Dritt
Alice Kaufman

1. Chair Update

Welcome (Courtney)

2. Meetings and minutes (Courtney)

- a. No quorum from December 2022, no minutes to approve
- b. Availability for upcoming meetings

Chair suggested we continue with the hybrid meeting format

3. Chair's update (Courtney)

- a. Updates from Chair's Breakfast

Chair's comments:

The Chair's breakfast was the morning of January 18

Brian Foulds (chair of CMLB) provided an update on smart metering (to be largely completed in 2023) and time-of-use rates, energy mix, and solar at the middle school. As we haven't met with CMLB in awhile, it may be time to invite a CMLB representative to a CAAB meeting.

4. Director's update (Eric)

Director's comments:

He has been busy meeting with many Town and community stakeholders, including:
DPW, which is started an upgraded water resources plan
Schools (Laurie Hunter)
Public Health
Brian Foulds (CMLB chair), but has not yet met with Dave Wood
DOER & surrounding towns re: DOER Fossil Fuel Free Building Demonstration Program
Newbury Court, regarding their sustainability plan
First Parish regarding their Greening Plan

He also received a call from a reporter who is interested in the 10 year anniversary of the plastic water bottle ban.

He will be meeting with Concord Business partnership in the near future.

Question: Does Q1 for the Special Town Meeting require any modification?

Answer: Eric spoke with Town counsel; current verbiage is OK

Question: Will the stretch code preclude fossil fuels for new construction?

Answer: Stretch code does allow for some fossil fuel, but does require "electric-ready" wiring and a solar component. The DOER demonstration project will also apply to renovations.

Citizen comment: Concord Green is looking into heat pumps; it needs expertise to help advise the Board.

5. Update - Stretch / Specialized Energy Code Warrant Article

Presented by Brad Hubbard-Nelson

Matt Johnson: The Town Meeting article in question is now Article 23

Brad presented slides for Town Meeting

Key points:

Updates to the stretch code get applied automatically because Concord already uses it
Review of specialized components: Electrification-ready; zero energy option, passive house or Zero energy option for multi-family

Review of 2022 TM vote re: home-rule petition

If we join the 10 town pilot, the specialized code is largely redundant

Eric: Article has been covered in the Globe. Brookline and Watertown have both adopted it.

Matt: The wording seems to cover renovations.

Eric: Other towns like Lexington have more specific language regarding renovations.

Exceptions include commercial kitchens, public utilities, labs, hospitals, affordable housing.

Matt: Hearing will be on February 27, 2023

Matt: Article 22 (authored by Dean Banfield) references CAAB re: municipal solar.

6. New Climate Action Committee Charge (Courtney)

Courtney reviewed draft charge to combine CAAB and CSEC

Matt: Main changes are to the membership section

CSEC voted in the affirmative

The group discussed. Notes: wording doesn't address resilience, or the Climate Action Plan Discussion of potential revisions.

Matt: Plans generally get updated on 5 or 10 year intervals.

Question: Do we have associate memberships? Matt: Yes, and can stand in as voting members.

Brian proposed; Ben 2nded. Unanimous vote in favor of the merger of CAAB and CSEC.

7. Workplan Check-Ins

a. Home Energy Scores (Jake)

No material update.

b. Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Paul and John)

John and Paul will provide good examples from other communities.

c. Financing Memo - Next steps for this?

Courtney will share memo again after the CAC is formed and the CAC can take up further action on the memo

Gavin Colbert: Interested in pursuing parking lot solar canopies.

8. Mass Energize COP Update (Brad)

Concord is a subscriber to Mass Energize

COP: Community of Practice

Zero Carbon MA is an expansion of Brookline's initiatives

Brookline had a zero emissions advisory board. They proposed 6 articles for TM; 4 passed: Expanding community choice aggregation (note relevant for Concord); opt-in methane tax (petition to state); home-rule petition for in-town loan program; asked state for permission to supersede stretch code. Didn't pass: a property tax surcharge and a surcharge on gas-powered vehicles.

9. New business

(None)

10. Public comments

(Comments not recorded)

11. Adjourn