

Town of Concord
Climate Action Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2021

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a virtual public meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) was held on January 27, 2021 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Attendees: Jake Swenson (chair), Brian Crouse, Scott Wood, Michael McAteer, Courtney Eaton, Warren Leon, Ruthy Bennett, John Bolduc

Staff: Kate Hanley

Guests: Alice Kaufman, Gilda Gussin, Laura Davis, Jane Hotchkiss, Brian Foulds, Mickey Wildzek, Pamela Dritt, Andy Puchnik

1. Welcome and Zoom reminders

The Chair reviewed the rules of public meetings on Zoom.

Scott Wood was welcomed as a new member of the board.

2. Meetings and Minutes

Upcoming meeting dates: 6pm on February 24th, March 17th

Minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting were approved with 8 voting yea.

3. Chair's Update

Jake shared that there have been many developments on climate legislation at the state level. He shared that CAAB will discuss feedback on the CMLP presentation from December. Jake mentioned that he is hoping to discuss what other communities with home energy score programs in a future meeting. He noted that another upcoming topic will be disclosure ordinances that John has offered to present on.

4. Director's Update

- Kate shared that the NextGen climate roadmap bill was vetoed by the Governor and then Legislature refiled the bill in the new session. (John noted Building Environment Plus is collecting case studies on net zero projects.)
- CSEC is collecting heat pump case studies.
- This summer Concord will bring on another UNH sustainability fellow for a project on financing energy implementation. Students are currently being recruited.
- Sustainability subcommittee for the Middle School project includes Matt Root, Kate Hanley, Laurie Hunter, Frank Cannon, Charlie Parker, Russ Hughes.

5. RMI Accelerator for Building Electrification Policies (Alice and Kate)

- Kate recapped the work that a group has been doing with help from RMI. The three strategies Concord is pursuing are a non-binding resolution, home rule petition, and zoning. The non-

binding resolution is being presented to the Select Board on February 8th. The home rule petition asks Legislature to give Concord authority to prohibit fossil fuel infrastructure (Article 40 from last year's town meeting). Nine other communities are working on similar home rule petitions.

- Does CAAB want to take this on as a project and request that Select Board sponsor the article at Town Meeting?
- Kate noted that the strategy could change depending on the success of climate legislation, but better to be prepared for upcoming Town Meeting.
- Jane advised it's better to propose because articles can always be pulled from the warrant.
- Alice noted that the draft article is ready to go, but will have to be reviewed by Town Counsel. CAAB would need to vote to support and move to Select Board and then get it on their agenda ask them if they will support for Town Meeting. Anyone could make presentation at Coordinating Committee meeting.
- Courtney asked if authorized, which town agency would administer a requirement? Alice said petition would ask that all new construction be fossil fuel free. Town has filed other home rule petitions, but the one filed last year on town caucus did not get through the process. She noted that the petition provides a place to engage the community on the fossil fuel free issue and keep the conversation going even if Legislature does not approve.
- **Motion: Ruthy moved to support home rule petition and take it to the Select Board, Warren and Michael seconded. Passed unanimously.**
- Non-binding resolution will be considered by Select Board on 2/8. Asking Select Board to consider home rule petition at the meeting following, 2/22.

6. Discussion of CMLP Presentation on Decarbonization

The board discussed takeaways from CMLP's presentation on decarbonization in December.

- Michael: 100% renewable goal by 2030 admirable. How nuclear fits into that goal is unclear, which is around 40%. Jake noted that the goal is to be carbon free, not renewable, which Brian Foulds confirmed. He noted nuclear has benefits for town's electricity cost. Michael believes public will be surprised how much nuclear is in our portfolio.
- Jake: would be great to see more innovation to enable on-site solar in Concord.
- John: would be good to hear how CMLP is moving toward an integrated plan. Jake thinks they are working on it.
- Scott: would be good to know what plan is to refresh strategic plan and the time line. It would help inform CAAB's efforts.
- Courtney: who is CAAB liaison to CMLP for CAP?
- Brian said CMLP will update strategy this year, so CAP will be part of the update.
- Pamela Dritt commented that she believes nuclear is not as problematic as some think and given nuclear plants are in place it makes sense to use them for base load. She also thought there are storage/transmission constraints on solar PV. Jake thinks it depends where the PV is located within the town.

John made presentation on RECs (see attached slides). CAAB will discuss at next meeting.

7. GHG Inventory Update

Kate is working on 2019 Inventory. She noted that initial takeaways indicate Concord is achieving 25% reduction for 2020 with market-based inventory method (using CMLP generation portfolio for electricity emissions factor). Waste data is difficult to get but it is a minor portion of inventory. Transportation data is problematic. For 2016 inventory we did not have VMT by vehicle type, but we do have VMT by vehicle type now and total vehicle counts from Assessor's database. Three options reviewed and Kate recommends third option to adjust MAPC tool data with more local information and assumptions for 2019 and adjust 2016 accordingly. CAAB supported option 3.

8. Public Comments

Brian Foulds: Agrees question is whether Town's REC purchase additive to grid. Noted CMLP priorities are in-town solar, bundled power and RECs, and then separate RECs. CMLP spending over \$3 million per year to buy RECs so is valid to ask if there is an opportunity cost. RECs are a transition strategy. Would support doing both location-based and market-based inventories. Chair awarded Brian for "best use of Zoom reactions."

9. Adjournment

Courtney motioned to adjourn, Brian seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.