

Meeting Minutes
Town of Concord
Climate Action Advisory Board
Tuesday April 23, 2019



Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) was held on Tuesday April 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Center. CAAB members present were Brian Foulds, Brian Crouse, Jake Swenson, Michael McAteer, Nick Pappas, Pam Hill, Peter Nichols, Ruthy Bennett, and Warren Leon. Also present was Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability.

1. Welcome visitors (Chair)

Chair Nick Pappas welcomed visitors to the meeting.

2. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 2018 meeting were approved unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Chair Report

Chair mentioned that the parking lot article was not approved at town meeting. Other articles will be addressed in following discussions of the committee. Nick went to transportation conference. Take away included improvements in transportation can come from “carrying more people”, details mentioned around micro transportation and a number of experiments identified that would aid in better transportation policies.

4. Director Update

(Refer to written update passed out at meeting)

- MVP Action grant application submitted; award notifications are expected around June 1st
- CSEC planning Sustainable Landscaping Fair at the high school. In addition, home heating and cooling event is expected to be highlighted in June
- Questions and comments from Board members: Peter suggested that a row of bikes might be set up at the high school. In addition, mentioned that the superintendent supports students receiving community service for biking to school. Racks would possibly be provided to accommodate the storage of bikes.

5. Questions and Comments Related to Policies and Priorities for Planning CAAB Climate Plan

- Kate introduced considerations for the CAAB Action Plan to include policies or ordinances that might address.
 - Benchmarking and Disclosure Ordinances
 - Home Energy Scores and Labeling
 - Renewable Energy Requirements
 - Municipal Building Net Zero or LEED Requirements
 - Restrictions and Bans
 - Commercial Building Performance Standards

- Conversation from Board members as follows for what a policy might look like and areas of focus and concentration
 - Peter liked the home energy scoring and labeling approach
 - Nick felt the labeling of homes would help homeowners understand the performance of their homes and would take actions to mitigate their energy use.
 - Brian felt the point of sale is a powerful tool to help owners understand the performance of their homes and value of having a top score
 - Pam believed that it may be necessary to have a By-law endorsed by town meeting to execute on these various strategies
 - Warren raised the potential for doing many of these strategies statewide. He plans to meet with the leadership at the Oregon Trust and will report back on best practices.
 - Jake discussed the support and work that is ongoing to elevate the point of sale concept and value of building labeling.
 - Warren expressed some caution that ordinances are effective but that the Board should not move to quickly and should think about unintended consequences
- The group also discussed elements of climate action planning broadly
 - Brian advised that in the development of the climate action plan to be sure to engage with other communities to socialize the content and build on best practices.
 - Michael identified some of the features of leading Climate plans shared by Kate and others: innovative approaches addressing barriers in technical, financial, and operational practices. He mentioned there is a need for new financing mechanisms to drive resilience in built environment and carbon reductions.
 - A number of members advised that a deeper engagement strategy with the CMLP would help inform the plan and highlight the importance of execution and results
 - Members also discussed the importance of focusing on actions and scale
 - Members discussed how there are many best practices in existing local and national Climate Action Plans and the need for Concord to cull through these to customize a solution unique to Concord that will address the goals and objectives set by the Select Board for the CAAB
 - Members discussed Is it beneficial to the CAAB to solicit more expertise and input outside the Board from other leaders in this climate space to inform process and deliverable of Concord's Climate Action Plan both short and long term?

6. CAAB voted to support the proposed Net Zero Stretch Code that is being deliberated by the BBRS

- Vote was unanimous to empower the Chair to submit a letter of support for a net zero stretch code to the BBRS

7. Discussion Of Key Design Principles for the CMS Feasibility and Design Study

CAAB talked briefly about proposed principles developed by Carbon Free Concord.

The group agreed to have these circulated to CAAB and then to have a discussion around the support and strategy going forward.

Next months agenda will include a presentation by a liaison from the Concord Carbon Free committee.

Meeting was adjourned 9:00 PM.

Minutes were prepared by Michael McAteer