

Meeting Minutes
Town of Concord
Climate Action Advisory Board
Wednesday, May 15, 2019



Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) was held on Wednesday May 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Harvey Wheeler Center. CAAB members present were Brian Foulds, Jake Swenson, Michael McAteer, Pam Hill, Peter Nichol, Ruthy Bennett, Warren Leon, and John Bolduc. Also present was Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability.

1. Election of Vice Chair

The Chair, Nick Pappas, was not able to be present. It was noted that the board does not have other officers. Jake Swenson was nominated to be Vice Chair. The committee voted and approved unanimously. Jake Swenson chaired the meeting.

2. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of March 27 and April 23, 2019 meetings were approved unanimously by a voice vote.

3. Chair Report

There was no chair update.

4. Director Update

(Refer to written update passed out at meeting)

- The Sustainability Director, Kate Hanley, reported that she passed the test and is now a LEED Green Associate, which is a certification issued by the US Green Building Council.
- A Sustainable Landscaping Fair was scheduled for Saturday, May 18th. Also, sustainable landscaping garden demonstrations are to be planted at the high school, Junction Park, and the Library (on the Sudbury Road side).
- A climate-friendly home heating and cooling event was planned for June 8.
- Kortni Wroten, the summer intern for the sustainability office, will be started June 3. Kortni is a Clark University student pursuing an MBA in sustainability and a MS in Environmental Science and Policy. She comes to the town through the University of New Hampshire sustainability fellowship program.

5. Net Zero Principles - Carbon Free Concord (CFC)

- Charlie Parker of Concord Free Concord presented on his group's views about net zero design principles relative to the middle school project
- Charlie noted Lincoln's challenges in implementing Town Meeting action on net zero as a possible lesson for Concord.
- For Concord, there is a need to engage the Building Committee. The selection of the project's architect is key.
- CFC's definition of net zero is no fossil fuels, high efficiency, net zero electricity.
- The Town Meeting article states that the project should be net zero energy-ready.

6. Climate Action Plan RFP

The Town applied for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant which it intends to use toward the development of a Climate Action Plan addressing both climate change mitigation and adaptation. In anticipation of the Commonwealth's decision on grants in June, Kate wished to start as soon as possible on the project given

that the grant must be completed by May 31, 2020. A draft Request for Proposals to hire a consultant was reviewed. Some thoughts about the RFP included:

- Brian F. recommended that the consultant be asked to produce a draft plan 1 to 2 months before the May 31 deadline.
- Michael M. suggested making clear the distinction between mitigation and adaptation. Kate said it's important to have an integrated plan.
- Warren L. thought the Somerville plan misses the practicality and clear cost-benefits and thought there should be an evaluation of the level of effort and resources for different types of actions.
- Identify barriers to action and ways to break through them, e.g., online financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Identify strategic opportunities and advantages, e.g., the town has a municipal light plant.
- What is a realistic timeframe for actions.
- Pam H. asked how the CAP will be integrated with other town plans; what needs to be done to align other plans with CAP?
- Michael M said CAP needs to be "bold".

7. Other Business

Nick Pappas has indicated he needs to step down from CAAB for personal reasons. Brian F. expressed a desire to serve as chair as he would like to be closely involved in seeing the CAP process succeed. Brian was nominated and elected as the new chair.

A discussion ensued about the need to seek administrative support for the committee.

Kate notified the committee that Fran Cummings has moved out of Concord and has therefore resigned from the committee.

With Alice Kaufman's tenure on the Select Board completed, Jane Hotchkiss is the new Select Board Liaison to CAAB.

8. Public Comment

Jerry Frenkil commented on the CAP RFP discussion.

- What are the deliverables the Town wants from CAP?
- What are the most important first/early actions; the consultant should take the first cut at identifying these.
- Upfront costs of actions should not be emphasized; life cycle costs are more valid.
- Between mitigation and adaptation, what should be emphasized.
- CAAB needs to do a good job of communicating the plan.

Meeting was adjourned 9:00 PM.

Minutes were prepared by John Bolduc