



**Hingham
Climate Action
Planning Committee**

Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2023

List of Attendees:

Tanya Bodell
Brianna Bennett
Nancy Wiley
Kathy Curley
Paul Sprecher
Elliott Place
Ginny LeClair
Henry (Bob) Hidell
Kathy Reardon
Brad Moyer
Tom Morahan
Brenda Black
Carlos AF DaSilva
Gary Tondorf-Dick

Brad: after the climate action plan draft is approved, we'll make sure every action item has representation in town; there seems to be decentralized oversight and someone needs to oversee the process of gaining representation in town for every action item

Elliott: agreed that CAPC should stay involved after the draft is approved

Carlos: agreed with Elliott

Henry: agreed CAPC should establish community overseeing managing carbon reduction and lots of focus and effort is required

Brad: we'll approve a plan with any amendments we make in tonight's meeting; Tanya will review with Brad and decide if there should be another public engagement session

Brad reviewed the plan for presentation to orient tonight's attendees to where we are in our timeline and to explain what we hope to accomplish.

The final draft for the presentation is due in March.

Gary: we need to include implementation considerations, i.e., which groups own what part of the plan.

Elliott: spoke about difficulties with the Planning Board because they're overwhelmed

Gary: we want to preserve the natural spaces and at the same time grow within the town

Kathy: what if Town Meeting doesn't approve the Plan? What are Selectmen anticipated to do?

Brad: we've presented to the Select Board three times and the timeframe for plan approval has been discussed

Ginny: she spoke with Art and he said this doesn't need to go before Town Meeting, it will just go before the Selectmen

Elliott: we should present our self-approved plan to Town Meeting and vetting plan with people before presenting to other committees (Planning Board, School Board/ Conservation, etc) because that will strengthen our position.

Ginny: we should populate the website with information and videos

Gary: wondered if Brad's presentation with 20 slides was the video

Brad: responded we'll probably customize a presentation depending on the audience and have around 10 slides

Kathy: asked what if a committee we present to says no, they disagree with our recommendations

Brad: responded we can't force any committee to do anything they don't want to, but we have the authority to keep in the plan what we advise so we don't need to take anything out; they can offer a different approach than us

Henry: we're not chartered to enforce the plan; the Select Board is responsible for that; we're not the enforcers

Brad: agreed with Henry; we need approval for implementation of the plan from the Select Board and after feedback, we can approve the plan

Henry: committees don't need to "approve" of our plan

Carlos: agreed

Kathy, Gary and Elliott suggested changing wording to "relevant" from "responsible"

Ginny: inquired whether we are sending the plan to Conservation prior to presenting

Brad: once the plan is approved for dissemination it goes to everyone: website, email blast, etc

Elliott: asked if we're including an intro letter or summary and how are we introducing it

Brad: responded the presentation is meant to be walked through not necessarily read in advance

Kathy: suggested sending the timeline in advance

Gary: asked whether we should write up a summary to set the stage

We took a unanimous vote to approve the dissemination of information

Brad: looking now at the plan itself

Tanya: suggested things we can look at

Elliott: suggested we focus on changes

Brad: we're going to try to get through all redlined changes tonight but we may not finish

Tanya: shared red-lined items

Kathy: suggested using the word "implemented"

Brad: suggested where to insert Kathy's suggestion

Tanya: asked if we like the Executive Summary

Elliott: replied "yes"

We discussed Scope 1-4 in the presentation

Henry: suggested we should include wording that we acknowledge there are out of bounds events that impact the plan and that's it, period

Brad: it's less out of bounds but out of our "control"

Tanya: asked are we saying we want to address only things operationally under our control

Henry: suggested we don't establish net zero definition

Elliott: share what net zero means: zero carbon emissions referring to a net zero balance of emissions coming in and out

We discussed wording: renewable energy, green and clean energy

Elliott: believes clean energy is a greenwashing term

Tanya: believes our plan only refers to decarbonization

Elliott: discussed stretch codes – it's important to opt-in specialized stretch codes which stretch beyond current requirements because they'll incentivize builders; specialized stretch codes should be encouraged

Tanya: the original adoption of stretch codes automatically adopts new ones

Gary: we need to identify contractors who can install new systems

We changed all "go to net zero" to "reach"

Gary: asked if we have wording which addresses historical homes/ building districts

Tanya: inserted Gary's language about preserving the building envelope

We made changes to wording about reducing the load on HMLP's system so homeowners should install battery chargers in their garages. We added more description of DER throughout the document

Elliott: suggested we need a Sustainability Director in town

Brenda: said we need to push for a Director in the override discussions of budget—right now Hingham has approved the Sustainability Coordinator Consultant

Gary: said we should review gas lines before the town; we should tie in with those meetings when the gas company wants to get a permit for new lines or for repairs

Kathy: brought up that we should include language regarding onsite waste disposal and water treatment

Bob: brought up defining "edible food" in accordance with government regulations

We discussed recycling plastics and decided to discourage residents from buying single-use plastic containers.

Motion to approve draft was confirmed by vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Wiley