

Energy Action Committee
Zoom Meeting, 04/27/2020, 16:05

Present: Scott Cyr (SC), Paul Heanue (PH), Mike Kacherovich (MK), Ben Kerman (BK, Brad Moyer (BM), Beth Porter (BP), and Michael Reive (MR)

Absent: None

The meeting began with a review of the minutes from the previous meeting. SC moved to adopt, PH seconded, and the minutes were adopted unanimously.

Next, BM gave an overview of a proposed climate action task force agenda and charter. In the ensuing discussion, BK and MR expressed a desire that membership of the task force be more Hingham citizen driven, wanting to be sure that the workings of the task force were open and transparent. Laura Burns, a citizen in attendance, weighed in as well, noting that the draft charter called for citizens to be involved, and expressing the view that such involvement would be critical for the task force's success. MK agreed, but noted that he believed Town Administration was incentivized to include citizen involvement as a robust volunteer group would be critical to the success of the task force.

The conversation continued with BK wondering if the task force should provide for more concrete staff expertise, as well as other resources, even if shared with other towns, and whether that's feasible. MK shared that concern, indicating that Town resources are critical, and the promise of staff availability was one of the advantages of the task force. BP suggested that the charter address the identification of gaps and resources needed.

Further, MR expressed a concern that the membership list seemed too extensive, concerned that identifying all personnel and onboarding them could delay the start of the task force's work. The charter should indicate that the task force can get started with a more limited member set, and more personnel could be added over time. Additionally, MR was concerned that the express identification of the Downtown Association might suggest that the task force was excluding other segments of the business community. BM suggested that the charter alter membership to core members and advisory personnel. BP then asked whether there is a time limit on Task Force membership, and MR suggested evaluating membership at regular intervals.

MK queried whether we should add a member of the planning commission or master planning committee or even the zoning committee. PH also suggested that the task force add Mary Savage-Dunham to the membership list or her designee.

MR next expressed the concern that, in the current environment, the Town may be strapped for resources and that the task force could get lost in the shuffle. MR asked whether there is any way we can get more resources, and perhaps the Light Plant could assist. PH indicated that the Hingham Municipal Light Plant's (HMLP) charter did not extend to this area, and that HMLP was not in a position to direct task force and citizen activities. BM asked about what services Energy New England might provide. PH indicated that, while Energy New England, could have

useful expertise, they would charge for their services. Instead, Ph wondered whether the Town could money towards the task force effort like they did the master planning effort.

Following the discussion, the Committee agreed that BM could update the task force charter document per the discussion and send to Town Administration for its review.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 1st at 4pm. The meeting adjourned at 17:33.