



**Hingham
Climate Action
Planning Committee**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 19, 2023

PLACE: Remote meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Moyer, Alyson Anderson, Henry (Bob) Hidell, Maria Zade, Carlos DaSilva, Thomas Morahan, Elliott Place, Gary Tondorf-Dick, and Kathy Reardon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beth Porter, Nancy Wiley

GUESTS: Brenda Black, Paul Sprecher, Brianna Bennett, Michael Reive, Ginny LeClair (Sustainability Coordinator-Consultant for the Towns of Hingham and Cohasset)

ATTACHMENTS: CAP Draft dated 7/19/2023

The Chair, Brad Moyer, called the duly noticed meeting to order at 7:03 PM, and presented the Virtual Open Meeting Protocol and Procedures pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023.

Agenda Item #1: Finalize review of, and approve, the Climate Action Plan

Brad provided an overview of the status of the Plan. The CAPC is waiting on final edits and images from Energyzt. He says it is up to the Committee if the Plan is finalized tonight or at another meeting to be scheduled. Brad proceeded to share the Plan on his screen for the Committee to review the revisions and call out any additional changes that need to be made.

While scrolling through the document, Brad noted that the formatting issues in the word document will be fixed in the final version. Carlos DaSilva mentioned that the Committee should

make sure the titles and sitting Chairperson of the Select Board are accurate in the Plan based on when it is published.

The Committee briefly discussed changes that were made to the acronym section including some definition changes, spelling, grammar, and document consistency. Gary Tondorf-Dick requested that R-value be added to the acronyms section and Brad proceeded to incorporate this definition. There was an ensuing discussion regarding the appropriate use of ‘Ton’ vs. ‘Tonne.’

Brad continued to scroll through the document, noting that the page numbers had been corrected. Bob Hidell asked why “automobile” was used in the executive summary and then “electric vehicle” was used elsewhere. Brad explained that he cannot change the graphic in the summary that says “automobile,” but he can ask Energyzt to change the wording. A discussion ensued about the appropriate use of “automobile” vs. “electric vehicle” throughout the Plan.

At the Electricity section, Brad mentioned that there is a graphic that Energyzt will need to update to switch from “Clean Energy” to “Carbon-Free Energy.” Elliot Place highlighted that there is another graphic in this section which needs to add units. Brad pointed out a new call-out box discussing demand response systems in this section. There was an ensuing discussion to determine if the discussion on demand response and the Plan’s definition of “net-metering” is sufficient for the Committee’s purposes.

In the Buildings section, Brad reviewed the flow of the section with the Committee and introduced new text proposed by Gary regarding elements of an energy-efficient home. Elliot said he liked the addition to the Plan, but that including the list of home styles seems unnecessary. Gary followed up to explain the importance of understanding the differences between various building structures. A discussion ensued regarding the retrofit process and what purpose the Committee is seeking from the text in this section.

Continuing through the buildings section, the Committee discussed the value of consumer education and information availability in the Plan. Gary provided a technical overview of insulation technologies as added context for the Committee to consider while reading the section. Gary then requested that Brad add additional information about vacuum insulated glass to the Plan and explained how it can prevent significant thermal losses in buildings. Brad inserted a paragraph elaborating on this technology into the text discussing insulation. Gary offered further clarification on opportunities related to windows, maximizing efficiency in building retrofits, and controlled ventilation.

Brad continued to scroll through the Plan and stopped to highlight a rewritten paragraph under the Example of a Clean Energy Home graphic. Gary asked for clarification on what Mass Save offers in its audits. Brad and Elliot discussed energy assessments they had completed in their homes and how the assessments included infrared analysis.

Elliot remarked that the maps of the Town in the Plan were well done. Gary asked if the Town has any authority regarding gas leaks. Tom Morahan said he does not believe the Town has any authority here beyond a street opening permit.

Brad scrolled on and elaborated on some comments made to the Implementation section. The order was redone to match the order used throughout the Plan to discuss key actors for implementation.

For tracking and metrics, Bob reflected that a tool will be needed to measure progress on the action items and asked what that tool is. Brad responded that the carbon inventory is intended to be something that the Climate Action Commission will use to measure progress over time. Elliot clarified that there are two different tracks with the carbon inventory- tracking progress for individuals and Hingham overall. Ginny added that there is a third system used to track municipal data.

Brad continued onto the Appendices and highlighted that the TBDs for Responsible Parties and Metrics on each action item in Appendix A have been filled in. He noted that these items can be changed later as necessary. A conversation ensued about the details of various action items as the Committee reviewed the final draft. The Committee recommended several adjustments to the action items and Brad incorporated their feedback into the draft.

A discussion ensued regarding the upcoming Select Board meeting to approve the Plan. Committee members inquired whether Committee members are encouraged to attend and whether a meeting needs to be posted. Brenda Black reviewed the Committee's charter and explained that it does not definitively say when the Committee should disband, so the Committee can use discretion when its job is done.

The Committee also discussed publicity. Maria Zade highlighted that a reporter may be more likely to report on the Select Board meeting discussing the Plan than the Plan itself. Ginny said that Art has engaged the Town's publicity staff person on publicity of the Plan. A discussion ensued regarding printing of the Plan, and Ginny recommended that paper copies of the Plan be made available upon request only. Maria suggested an opportunity to share a few shared paper copies around Town with entities such as the Library and QR codes in other spaces. Further discussion ensued regarding Plan, and balancing the value of hard copies for distribution vs. virtual copies, and how many copies to print. Brad and Ginny will touch base with Town Administration on distribution options and preferences.

Carlos asked for the Plan to mention the transition of the CAPC to the Climate Action Commission upon completion of the Plan. A discussion ensued to determine where this information fits best. Brad inserted a footnote at the end of the Introduction Letter explaining to readers that the successor body to the CAPC that will oversee the implementation of the Plan is the Hingham Climate Action Commission.

Brad scrolled to the end of the document where the grants table is. Ginny said she has additional grants to add to the chart and will send to Brad to be incorporated.

Brad summarized the changes that have been agreed upon by the Committee and will be made at the conclusion of the meeting. Brad proposes a resolution to the Committee:

Resolved, that the Climate Action Plan, as presented at this meeting, be and hereby is approved; that the Chair of the Committee is hereby authorized to update the Climate Action Plan in accordance with the changes as discussed at this meeting and any other changes the Chair deems necessary prior to dissemination and in order to publish and make accessible the Plan; and with the approval of this Climate Action Plan, the Climate Action Planning Committee has hereby fulfilled the mission entrusted to it by the Town in accordance with Article 14 of the Town Meeting of 2021.

Moved by: Elliot Place

Seconded by: Maria Zade

Roll-Call Vote: Unanimous, In-Favor

Agenda Item #2: Other business brought before the Committee

Brianna reported that HMLP is planning a webinar with Abode Energy on Wednesday, August 16th at 7 PM to discuss heat pumps. Members of the CAPC are encouraged to attend the webinar, submit questions in advance, and help promote the webinar as it relates to the Town's net zero goals.

Brad said that he will post a CAPC meeting for the Select Board meeting next week to be safe and ward against any potential open-meeting violations.

Brad discussed the appointments to the Climate Action Commission. He encouraged Committee members to return to their respective committees and ask to be appointed or seek appointments for the Commission. Some committees have already discussed appointments or have taken votes, others will discuss them at their upcoming meetings.

Agenda Item #3: Review and approval of previous meeting minutes

Brad pulled up the minutes from December 14, 2022 and June 28, 2023 for review.

The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from July 19, 2023.

Brad moved to approve the minutes.

Moved by: Brad Moyer

Seconded by: Gary Tondorf-Dick

Roll Call Vote: Unanimous, In-Favor

Agenda Item #4: Adjourn at 9:00pm or before

The final meeting of the Hingham Climate Action Committee (CAPC) adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Morahan