



## MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** August 3, 2022

**PLACE:** Remote meeting via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brad Moyer (Chair), Nancy Wiley, Kathy Reardon, Elliott Place, Maria Zade, Henry (Bob) Hidell, Tom Morahan, Gary Tondorf-Dick, Carlos A.F. DaSilva

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Alyson Anderson and Beth Porter

**GUESTS:** Brianna Bennett, Brenda Black, Joe Griffin, John Borger, Madison Collins, Virginia LeClair, and Tanya Bodell, Paul Sprecher, Kathy Curley, Tracy Shriver, and Jo-An Heileman

**ATTACHMENTS:** Energyzt Road Map Document for Public Involvement

Brad welcomed Joe Griffin to HCAPC as an advisory rep. He then indicated that we would continue our review of the Buildings component of the climate action plan, and to that end invited Tracy Shriver, Chair of the Hingham Historic Districts Commission, to hear of and possibly participate in the discussion as it relates to historic homes.

Tanya of Energyzt then reviewed the contours of building decarbonization and asked if there is anything new to add to the current list. Elliott mentioned we should consider how we can incentivize owners of old/ historic homes and put the question to the Historic Districts Committee members present. Gary said we need a pilot project for insulating, etc., older homes.

Tracy provided an overview of the fact that federal guidelines control the contours of what can be done with historic homes. Those guidelines trump state and local regulations. He discussed what that can mean with regard to home improvements, such as insulation, solar panels, and the like. Tracy noted that approximately 20% of the Hingham housing stock is designated as historic. Tanya asked Tracy if heat pumps in historic homes is ok, and he indicated yes because the exterior plot of land is not subject to historic guidelines.

Brad asked Tracy if the federal guidelines at all address carbon reduction measures and how to move to a net-zero building. Tracy did not know but offered to follow-up on that point.

Tanya then asked what kinds of recommendations we have for commercial and industrial buildings.

Gary brought up that A.W. Perry's upgrades occur when they get new tenants. Stretch codes are followed and almost all buildings are over 75 years in age. We discussed whether these upgrades in energy efficiency could be funded through tax credits or something to that effect.



Maria suggested expedited permitting as an incentive to go green.

Tanya said stretch codes address moving forward with climate action for new buildings and proposed an approach which adopts super stretch codes.

Discussion transitioned to the next public engagement session.

Bob suggested we begin with a focused 5-minute informational video introducing the Committee. Kathy suggested we get schools involved and engage parents of schoolchildren. Madison concurred that it's vital to get students involved in the engagement session. Ginny offered to help with the 5-minute informational video.

Brad reviewed preliminary results to a poll sent to the Committee members in advance of the meeting for setting a date, and offered that September 14, 2022 appeared the most agreeable. The Committee members agreed to set the date for September 14<sup>th</sup>. Discussion ensued about whether to hold the session in person, remotely, or do undertake a hybrid approach, and also what the agenda would look like. Ginny of Energyzt reminded the members that there is a public engagement plan document that contained recommendations for the approach. The members were unable to decide on the format, and so agreed to table it until the next meeting. Brad indicated that he and several of the engagement working group members would meet in advance of the next meeting to propose an approach for review at the next meeting.

In the meantime, Maria offered to create a "Save the Date" graphic, and requested that everyone post the invitation to their personal networks.

John Borger then noted that the Hingham Anchor had offered to allow the CAPC a permanent section for news. Members discussed whether Hingham Media could also provide a news outlet for HCAPC.

Brad moved to the next item on the agenda, which was whether the CAPC should endorse the PACE program. Brad provided a brief overview of the program, summarizing that which was previously given at the Committee's April 27, 2022 meeting. Brianna provided a status with regard to the Town, noting that she had a meeting with the Select Board and that that Select Board was considering whether to approve. After completing the review of the PACE program, Brad moved as follows:

**RESOLVED, that the Committee recommend that the Town of Hingham adopt the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program as presented to the Committee.**

Elliott seconded, and after discussion, the motion passed unanimously.



Discussion transitioned to consideration of Green Communities 2.0 “Climate Leaders”, which is a new program the Commonwealth is considering adopting, and requested comments from municipalities, including any municipal committees focused on clean energy. Brad reviewed the program, noting as follows:

- Climate Leaders Criteria maps well to what we in Hingham have
  - Must be an existing Green Community
  - Local committee to lead on clean energy and climate activities
  - MVP community status
  - Commit to decarbonize municipal operations plus implementation plan by 2050 (CAP helps there)
  - Zero Emissions First vehicle policy (upgrade from fuel-efficient only -- must consider zero-emission vehicles first when buying new)
  - Specialized Stretch Code Adoption (this Code will be available by statute December 24, 2022, according to the DOER webinar)
  - Demonstrate energy leadership in clean energy policies/planning (PACE program qualifies), community engagement (CAP counts), and clean transportation (promote publicly accessible EV charging stations, which we're doing)
- Grant Funding Opportunities
  - Solar paired with EVSE (storage) or BESS (charging stations)
  - Implementing climate leader actions
  - Municipal building decarbonization
  - Seed funds for a climate coordinator
  - Vehicle grant bonus
- Seeking input on:
  - Are the requirements too hard, too easy, or just right?
  - What should be tweaked?
  - Are there other municipal clean energy / climate actions we should consider?
  - What tools will municipalities need to participate?
  - Would your community consider participation?
  - What have we not thought of?

Brad pointed out Hingham doesn't currently have a zero emission first policy and the specialized stretch code.



Brad said he is filling out the application for the voluntary group inclusion in the Green Communities 2.0 program. He explained we're asked to comment on these requirements.

Tom pointed out that HMLP provides lots of renewable energy and it should be considered when applying. The Committee members recommended the following be included in any comments submitted:

- Muni towns that have high renewable energy power sources should count as a high factor
- Muni light plant towns should have a program or programs for energy efficiency
- Solar array financing and incentives granted to Climate Leader towns
- Specialized stretch still undefined and would like greater clarity before signing up as a climate leader
- Are current municipal building projects being designed as net-zero buildings?
- Residential PACE a great program to consider as well - the Commonwealth should consider this. Make this a social equity / justice comment

Brad then moved as follows:

**RESOLVED, that the Committee submit a comment on the Green Communities 2.0 "Climate Leaders" program in the manner and format requested by the Green Communities program, that the Committee authorize Brad Moyer as its representative to complete the comment, and that any such comment include the recommendations as discussed at this meeting.**

Maria seconded, and after discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Lastly, Brad invited Madison to provide an overview of her "Theory of Change" mapping workshop. Madison noted that it is a 3-hour session designed to imagine Hingham having achieved carbon neutrality and working backwards has to how it was achieved. She is looking for a single CAPC representative, and is flexible on selecting a date based on availability of all participants. Elliott agreed to participate pending scheduling of the session as he noted that he has various travels in the next few weeks.

The minutes for the June 1, 2022 and July 13, 2022 minutes were then reviewed and adopted unanimously.

The next meeting was set for August 17, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Wiley