



Harvard Climate Initiative Committee  
**Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2022**

The meeting convened at 7:38 pm on Zoom

Members Present: Jefferson Burson, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Adam Meier, Christiane Turnheim, Jaye Waldron, Lucy Wallace, Brian Smith, and Paul Green

Staff Present: Chris Ryan

1. Minutes

Lucy Wallace made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from January 27, 2022. Adam Meier seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes. The HCIC still needs a “scribe” to do the minutes, but for now the duties can rotate among the members.

2. Liaison relationships & reporting

Ellen presented a table showing which HCIC members have volunteered for various activities. Several are working on outreach activities. Data gathering needs more help. Lucy suggested getting more people to join at a later date, but Ellen was concerned that more data is needed now for baseline information. The types of data needed includes statistics on who has solar, electric vehicles, etc. There are no volunteers yet for the legislative monitoring. Lucy volunteered to contact someone she knows in Pepperell who may have input on the NC4 group as they focus on legislative issues. The NC4 group meets on the third Wednesday of the month. Adam asked whether the different towns that participate could have a rotating schedule of participation each month and report out to the other towns. Chris asked if NWRA was participating. Lucy stated that the organization as a whole was not participating, but that there might be individuals she could reach out to who are. Chris also stated the MAPC has climate and legislative groups. He could contact the MRPC to see if they have a legislative group.

A discussion of having liaisons bring information to their committee, board, or organization (“Committee”) ensued. If a Committee is doing some activity related to any HCIC activities, please let HCIC know. Jefferson added that the Planning Board still needs to “decommission” the CRWG (as it has now become the HCIC).

HCIC will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month at 7:30 pm.

3. Updates

Climate Action Plan: Jefferson presented a table of and discussed the 6 Focus Areas and who will be taking the next steps to reach out to each Committee. Discussion followed as to who is

the lead partner for each Area and the liaison from HCIC who will reach out to the Committee to get on their agenda as soon as possible.

There was discussion of whether the different Committees should be presented with draft climate goals and actions to start a conversation, or if each Committee should be presented with a “blank page” to create their own goals and actions. It was decided to leave this up to the Committee Chair. It was suggested that when a first draft of goals/actions is created, a meeting could be held with the Select Board. To be determined at a later date. Then a second meeting with other Stakeholders (from Jefferson’s table) would be held. There might also be other Stakeholders that need to be added to each group. Chris suggested that once the initial goals and actions have been developed, that list should be run by CPIC and the Finance Committee in addition to the Select Board.

Various aspects related to climate were discussed.

- Ellen stated that lowering emissions was not the only goal; that preparedness and mitigation are also factors that need to be looked at.
- On the subject of transportation, not only vehicles going through town, but around town is also important, including school buses. DPW deals with all transportation projects including streets and sidewalks.
- On the subject of Natural Resources, there should be a follow-on to the Apple Country Report.

The HCIC decided that each liaison should reach out to its pertinent Committee next week to get on the agenda and ask whether ideas should be brought to the Committee or a blank slate for the Committee to develop ideas. Once a meeting date has been established, that information should be conveyed to HCIC.

Brian discussed the meeting HEAC had to identify potential goals. He recommended the focus should be on high priority items that have a major impact on climate. Paul suggested tracking large emission sources first and asked what the overarching priority is across the board. Do we want to address what is easiest or what has the most impact?

Outreach Activities: Ellen summarized outreach activities that Deborah, Jefferson, Christiane, and she have been working on including sending out information twice a month to a list of over 200. Catherine Warner (former CRWG member) will be writing an article for the *Harvard Press* twice a month, while Christiane may write an article on community gardening. There is a virtual presentation on a Net Zero Carbon Free Home on Feb 16 (one Instagram post ran on this) and at the end of March there will be a virtual meeting on purchasing EVs (by Green Consumer Alliance), and Harvard Energize is working on Earth Day activities to be held around town.

The next HCIC meeting is scheduled for February 24 at 7:30 pm.

Adjourned: 8:50 pm