



Harvard Climate Initiative Committee

Meeting Minutes of 12/08/22

The meeting convened at 7:32 pm on Zoom

Members: Present: Jefferson Burson, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Adam Meier, Deborah O'Rourke, Lucy Wallace, Christiane Turnheim, Jaye Waldron, Sharon McCarthy, Rich Marcello, Brian Smith

Staff Present: N/A

Guest: Pat Natoli

1. Minutes from December 1, 2022, approved unanimously
2. Affordable Housing Trust – Arielle Jennings
 - a. To date, affordable housing in town has been developed through 40B
 - b. Discussion of Harvard's Housing Production Plan process
 - c. Water and septic challenge under state multi-family requirements of 15 units/acre creates challenges
 - d. MVP ByLaw creation could be intersecting opportunity for housing and climate
 - e. MBTA policy discussion – considerations of transportation from affordable housing is important
3. Debrief on Select Board Meeting of Dec 6th
 - a. Unanimous support from SB
 - b. At this point, HCIC is on our own for grant support.
 - c. Charles on SB proposed as a pilot to fund grant writer for HCIC in upcoming fiscal year.
 - d. Expressions of interest due in December for some grants.
 - e. Select Board Communications:
 - i. Jefferson's rough communication considerations: CAP that SB voted to adopt. Next steps will only be successful if boards and committees will be working together. HCIC will lead next steps on Action Committee. Focused on these 6 areas, with these 6 key partners and liaisons. Assuming that is in alignment, we plan to begin early in 2023.
 - ii. Jefferson to draft language and Jaye and Rich will review with the plan to send to SB week of 12/12

4. Implementation Plan Next Steps

- a. CAP Subgroups:
 - i. Buildings – Brian, Ellen, Pat
 - ii. Energy – Brian, Ellen
 - iii. Transportation – Rich (other?)
 - iv. Natural Resources – Jaye, Lucy
 - v. Agriculture – Christiane and Jefferson
 - vi. Preparedness – Sharon and Pat

5. Grant writing – MVP

- a. Regional coordinator would like HCIC to submit. Ellen meeting with them on Monday, 12/12
- b. Tim K doesn't want to do culverts grant. Has partial \$ through DER and needs additional \$, which could be covered through MVP. TK doesn't want to do.
- c. Appears to be \$ for Open Space. CPC has \$300k they can allocate. Open Space asked for \$200k. over \$800k in CPC requests.
- d. Consideration: Application for grant on Outreach. Bundle with ByLaws.
 - i. Energy Coaches – already begun in town and receiving calls from residents.
 - ii. Peer pressure can be a motivator
 - iii. Additional Ideas: Speakers, demonstrations, producing town-wide mailings (4x/year), workshops on naturalizing yards (in combination with/place of electrifying yard maintenance), invasives removal, certification/yard signs, partner with Warner Free Lecture to bring in speaker and table,
 - iv. Approach application as bundling of Outreach ideas and focus on Outreach towards residential efforts

6. Budget Feedback - not available

7. Other Business

- a. Black Earth Compost – Lucy: connected with them on residential pick up in the absence of town-centered location, and whether BEC would consider a larger bin at the Town's Transfer Station. BEC: if at least 100 subscribers, YES (Currently 36 subscribers on waitlist). BEC composts broad range of items bones, meat, dairy, used paper items. Subscribers get voucher for bag(s) of their completed compost for gardens, etc.). Cost for residents \$15/month with bi-weekly pick up – with potential to increase to weekly pick up.
- b. Tower Hill Botanical Garden – Sharon: reached out to Tower Hill following their national award on sustainable landscape management. Sharon spoke with Director of Horticulture, and they provided 2 websites on electric landscape equipment. Director is willing to do programming in Harvard. Shared supplier in Wrentham who only sells electric tools. MA has diesel replacement grant for diesel generators and diesel engines with State supporting 40% of replacement costs. Audience would be both residential and municipal.

January 12th next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm