



Harvard Climate Initiative Committee

Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023

The meeting convened at 7:05 pm on Zoom

Members: Present: **(select from list)** Jefferson Burson , Ellen Sachs Leicher, Sharon McCarthy, Deborah O'Rourke, Christiane Turnheim, Janet Waldron, Lucy Wallace, Brian Smith, Rich Marcello

Guest: Pat Natoli, Staci Donahue

Agenda:

1 – Meeting minutes of 4-13-23 approved unanimously

2 – Events/Outreach Update

- Earth Day Show and Tell Around Town Debriefing : Successful, but cool & windy weather limited attendance. Many new people were identified. 2 most popular locations were Chestnut tree & Christiane's Good Spirits Farm. Attendance at homes~ 141; ~100 people came to HES. Will debrief with homeowners and consider how things could be done differently for next year.
- Flag project: Received a grant for \$1500; further discussion deferred until Outreach folks meet and bring back ideas to full committee.

3 – CAP Implementation Update from Lead Committees

- Buildings and Energy, HEAC: Discussion of how municipal buildings are working toward CAP goals. Focus will be on Bromfield to reduce carbon footprint. Need to be in the discussion for the new DPW building with the Select Board.
- Transportation, TAC: Work on bike paths & regional electric vehicle shuttle service from town to commuter rail. Does not want to be in the "umbrella" role and interacting with other committees
- Natural Resources
 - Planning Board: Open space residential bylaw being worked on for fall town meeting.
 - Conservation Committee: some reluctance to take a leadership role for natural resources & climate related work. Current members of ConCom has a very narrow interpretation of the mandate for the committee.
 - Should land purchases be a goal for Natural Resources. Was part of the Apple Country report but appears we left it out of the actions.
- Agriculture Committee: education improve outreach via an online forum in 2024
- Preparedness: Update on groundwater & drought articles for Press. Hazard mitigation needs more attention.

4 – Town Administration Meetings (10 Mins)

- Meet with FinCom, CPIC, Town Admin: how are they going to put climate into projects they are working on. Could there be money in selling carbon credits?

5 – Grants

- MVP Grant for Outreach & Education. Need 25% match via volunteer hours. Due May 4. Support for bylaw writing. Requested \$50K with a match of about 30%
 - Erosion control bylaw – add tree clearing
 - Open Space Residential Development bylaw update and outreach
 - Resiliency – have an outreach program: individual events for: best practices, preparedness in home
- MRPC assistance with grant finding and writing - requested and approved. Ellen and Staci are tracking for engaging their support

6– Other

- Specialized Stretch Code presentation by Julie Gagen on May 22 at 7:30pm
- Next meetings – change of dates for meetings in May. Need a Doodle poll.
- Open Space Bylaw revision should be done by early September for smaller houses & preserve more land. Looking for HCIC support. Committee members encouraged to send comments to Stacia Donahue. Staci to share updates with HCIC as process continues

Meeting Moved by Lucy seconded by Jaye adjourned at 9:01pm