



Harvard Climate Initiative Committee

Meeting Minutes of March 31, 2022

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm on Zoom

Members: Present: Jefferson Burson, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Adam Meier, Brian Smith, Christiane Turnheim, Lucy Wallace, Pat Natoli, Sharon McCarthy

Staff Present: Chris Ryan

Guest: N/A

1. Minutes from March 10, 2022 meeting approved.
2. Updates
 - a. Outreach
 - i. EV Event, March 29th: Ellen reported that ~20 people attended the event, which included a presentation by Green Energy Consumers Alliance. In the past, the GECA served as a broker between buyers and dealers in the purchase of EVs and receipt of state and federal incentives. That program has since expired, although GECA is working with legislators to have it reinstated. The event was recorded and has been posted on our website, under "Events."
 - ii. Earth Day Event, April 30th: There are 12 houses on the tour, with some combination of ground or air source heat pumps, and solar. The General Store is providing space on the patio for organizations to offer information on their climate-related activities. Ellen has arranged for a demonstration of cooking on an induction stovetop. After the event, the stovetop and 3 pots will be donated to an Afghan family. Fivesparks will also be providing some climate-related activity. Ellen needs volunteers to partner with the hosts of 5 or 6 of the houses and to be at the General Store to provide information on the event and hand out maps of the tours. There will be a petting zoo in the high school parking lot of electric vehicles and, perhaps, equipment. Ellen and Deborah will be posting information on the event at multiple social media outlets, our website and the town's website. She is asking people to preregister, although that is not required. Catherine Warner

is writing an article for *The Harvard Press*. Finally, Ellen needs volunteers to help paint signs that will be posted the week before at the houses on the tour.

b. Grants

- i. Bylaw Update: The consulting firm that did the Apple Country MVP project is writing the grant application to update our bylaws to include climate impacts and mitigation. Athol is interesting in partnering with us, and as the application encourages inclusion of an Environmental Justice Community it will help strengthen the application.
- ii. Culverts: The same consulting firm is also preparing the application to replace one or two culverts. At the engineer's suggestion, and in concurrence with Bruce Leicher and Tim Kilhart's advice, the application for funding will be for a culvert further downstream of the pond. The culvert under Cruft Lane will be recommended for this project.

c. Plan Development: The status of the six target areas and outcome of initial meetings with key stakeholder committees to develop goals and actions was reviewed.

- i. Energy and Buildings: Ellen and Brian have met with HEAC and the School Committee. Goals and actions have been finalized. Next is to meet with the additional committees: Planning Board, Permanent Building Committee, and town and schools Facilities Manager/Building Inspector.
- ii. Natural Resources: Lucy and Jaye met with the Conservation Commission and Jefferson met with the Planning Board. Between these two key land use committees, 3 goals have been identified: 2 from the Conservation Commission and 1 from the Planning Board. The Conservation Commission will vote to approve its 2 goals at its next meeting.
- iii. Agriculture: This plan is essentially complete. Christiane will organize a joint meeting with the Ag Commission, Conservation Trust, and Conservation Commission.
- iv. Transportation: The status of the first round of meetings pointed to the MRPC grant for goals and actions. Chris will check with MRPC to see where it is in its work on this target area.
- v. Preparedness: Pat is working on updating the shelter section in the 2015 plan. Otherwise, most of that plan is still appropriate and current. Goals and actions will have to come out of this plan.

d. Next Steps on Plan Development: The next phase will entail inviting a representative from each potential stakeholder group to a meeting to review the outcomes of the first-round meetings: the initial goals and actions to be undertaken. It was suggested that, if possible, groups be combined for the second round of meetings. For instance, Energy and Buildings would reach out

to similar stakeholders for input on the outcome of the 1st round. Similarly, Agriculture and Natural Resources boards could be combined. It was acknowledged that this would be a very large group and, if possible, an in-person meeting could be held, making participation by all easier. Due to the upcoming Earth Day event, followed by Annual Town Meeting on May 14th, it was felt this 2nd round meeting should be held later in May.

3. New Business

- a. Sharon reported on her meeting with the Board of the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. She presented a proposal for a shared sustainability staff person that could assist the towns with addressing sustainability issues. Although the NABOH has 16 member communities, the Board only has 5 or 6 directors. The Board did offer to send Sharon's write-up to all the member towns for their comments.
 - b. David Faye has gathered as much information as the town seems to have on ground and air sourced heat pumps, and solar panels. Ellen will share it with committee members.
4. Next Meeting: The next scheduled meeting is on April 14th and the one after is the 28th. Ellen may reschedule to only one in April closer to the Earth Day event as to provide an opportunity to finalize plans for that day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm