



Harvard Climate Initiative Committee

Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2023

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm on Zoom

Members: Present: Ellen Sachs Leicher, Sharon McCarthy, Deborah O'Rourke, Christiane Turnheim, Brian Smith, Rich Marcello, Lucy Wallace

1 – Approval of meeting minutes of July 13, 2023 postponed until next meeting

2 – Discussion on of Meeting Format

- Look into details of various aspects of CAP. Focus on one topic per meeting and dig deeper into it.
- Standardized meeting format: 5 min news update, outreach update, CAP liaisons report on a quarterly or semiannual basis and lead the discussion of their progress.

3 – CAP Implementation Update:

- Agriculture: Issue with 2020 Agriculture Climate Action Plan had many inaccuracies from reliance on Chapter 61A applications which data is out of date. Municipal goal to be “Support the sustainability of the agricultural community. Add by-laws & regulations to reviewing Harvard’s zoning laws to allow flexibility for farm related uses. Schools are aware that they are not buying enough local produce. Residential goal is ok, education activities are being planned.
- General comment – need interim, measurable specific targets on year- by-year basis or interim basis as some targets are over 10 years out. Discussion on how to develop/refine what these interim targets would look like. Each liaison should work with committees to develop interim targets that can be measured.
- Rich M offered to develop a “clearinghouse” for information dissemination in a comprehensive manner. Discussion of the needs re. information to help move actions forward. Discussion on the success of coaching, exemplified by the energy coaches and how we could have this in other areas – solar coaches, land coaches, EV coaches, etc.
- Preparedness will be discussed at next meeting
- Language re. Land purchase – Natural Resources – passed over until another meeting.

4 – Events/Outreach Update

- September 16, Lions Fall Festival, has requested an EV petting zoo to be open 3:30-5:30pm. Volunteers needed. Reach out to Deborah.

- October 7, Flea Market booth with diverse foods/salsas, relishes from different cultures made with local produce. Volunteers needed.
- October or November, Forest Health 101, is being planned.
- ~25 Flags have been distributed around town.

5 – OSRD Bylaw Update – passed over until next meeting

6- 40B ZBA Comments

- Comments due by Sunday to Ellen.
- Ellen's list so far: Pervious roadways so run off not into wetlands and Bower's Brook, Native plantings, use Harvard's wetlands bylaws.
- Add, drought tolerant & no sprinkler systems or if there is one, operates on demand based on soil moisture content.

7 – MART Transportation input

- Free to town; need to identify what could be done with this transportation option.

8 – CPIC Review and Input

- Contains climate question but unknown how the applicant's response is evaluated.
- Needs to be topic of conversation on how we interact with CPIC.
- CPIC requests are due earlier this year (Sept) due to moving up the date of Annual Town meeting in 2024

9 – Other

- Next year's budget is due in October.

10 - Membership

- Pat Natoli will be full member

Next meeting is August 10, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm