



Harvard Climate Initiative Committee

Meeting Minutes of 5/12/22

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm on Zoom

Members: Present: Ellen Sachs Leicher, Sharon McCarthy, Adam Meier, Deborah O'Rourke, ,
Jaye Waldron, Lucy Wallace, Brian Smith

Staff Present: Pat Natoli

Agenda:

1 – Approval of Minutes of the meeting of April 19, 2022

- Lucy moved to accept the minutes. Deborah seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

2 – Updates

Outreach

- Earth Day Event
 - Deborah recapped the Earth Day Event, which was very successful.
 - The Harvard Press gave great support with various articles. Harvard Next Door and signs around town worked well.
 - There were approximately 250 “visits” at the various events, including visitors, helpers, and hosts (at houses). Approximately 45 – 50 people stopped at the electric car “petting zoo;” two sites had more than 41 guests, and about 20 – 25 people stopped at the general, where there were various displays by town committees/boards.
 - Senator Jamie Eldridge stopped by as well.
 - Guests seemed eager to learn about the features on display, and some hosts asked questions as to what visitors thought including: how could things be improved? How were the logistics, timing, and information dissemination?
- Future Event Ideas

- The HCIC discussed whether another Event should be sponsored, perhaps on a yearly basis. Lucy suggested maybe something in the fall, perhaps about winterization. Pat suggested reaching out to the Ag Committee for possible discussion on safe food preparation/storage. Maybe have PSAs on cable or make a video.
- Members were encouraged to email Deborah with any ideas.

Plan Development/Progress

Progress to date on the sections of the plan that are working toward completion:

- Natural Resources
 - Only one meeting has been held so far.
 - Lucy suggested having a meeting of several committees to discuss Natural Resources after Town Meeting.
- Hazard Plan (Preparedness)
 - Lucy stated a meeting slated for May 25th will discuss recommendations.
 - The Board of Health wants to be involved in development of this plan.
- Transportation
 - No information update yet.

Grant Requests Update

- One grant could help create a town bylaw with a climate focus. (This grant was not applied for.)
- There may be data sharing websites to get information on model bylaws.
- A second grant was applied for to do culvert repair along Bowers Brook. Five culverts would be assessed with 2 possibly redesigned and then action funds would be sought to do the construction.

Presentation to Select Board

- A presentation on the Decarbonization Plan, including Power Point slides, will be made to the Select Board meeting at 8:00 pm on May 17.
- The Climate Action Plan aim is to finish it by the end of June for public input. HCIC needs to stress that the Plan goes beyond the vote at last year's Town Meeting to simply make a resolution to acknowledge climate change. There needs to be a formal mechanism for the Select Board to make decisions and take action to address climate change. We need to empower the Board and set a timeframe for them to set a direction for the town.
- There will be 2 new Select Board members after Town Election, so they will need to be brought up to date on what HCIC has been doing.

- Sharon stated that a pitch needs to be made for the new Director of Community & Economic Development to have climate resilience experience. The Planning Board should be encouraged to look through a climate lens when permitting new projects.

Town Meeting

- The Annual Report will not include HCIC activities as the Committee was officially formed in 2022 (January).
- Ellen prepared information to present at Town Meeting and the HCIC discussed the draft. Lucy suggested listing the various sections of the Climate Action Plan, the purpose of the HCIC – to reduce the town’s carbon footprint, and to present a high-level statement of the mission/vision of HCIC. Ellen planned for roughly 5-10 minutes presentation with (hopefully) someone from the Green Team.
- Pat volunteered to make copies of the final presentation to hand out at Town Meeting.
- The Press will continue coverage of HCIC activities and general climate issues.

Environmental Assessment Process Feedback

Nothing was discussed on this topic.

3 - Future Meetings and New Business

- The next HCIC meeting will be held on May 26th at 7:30. There will be a debrief from the Select Board meeting/presentation.
- There will be an update from the Hazard Mitigation group
- Lucy suggested meeting with Conservation Commission at their next meeting (June 2) to discuss Natural Resources.

Lucy moved to close the meeting at 8:42. Deborah seconded the motion. All were in favor of adjourning.