



Harvard Climate Initiative Committee

Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2022

The meeting convened at 7:05 pm on Zoom

Members: Present: Jefferson Burson, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Sharon McCarthy, Deborah O'Rourke, Janet Waldron, Lucy Wallace, Brian Smith, Paul Green, Christiane Turnheim

Staff Present: none

Guest: none

1. Meeting minutes from 7/14/22 date approved
2. Plan Development Update
 - Every focus area's 2nd draft of goals/actions has been added to plan, except transportation which is scheduled for next week
 - Agriculture scheduled a second mtg but no one except agriculture came, so it's done for now
 - Lucy, Ellen, and Jefferson will meet and tweak, wordsmith, edit language on 8/12
 - Public meeting in September via Zoom. Want the plan to be complete by Town Meeting (first Saturday in October)
 - Idea to get Bill Barton to moderate the public hearing, but sense this is more of a hearing and probably not necessary
 - Marketing strategy? Discussed some ways to catch attention for residents to attend.
 - Can we find anyone who is proficient with a desktop publishing app to clean-up and make the CAP doc look more professional, polished?
3. Vision Statement Review
 - General consensus that the current draft of the vision statement needs to be re-thought
 - People will send their ideas for a vision to Jefferson, Ellen, Lucy for review on 8/12
 - Will bring a new vision idea back to the next meeting
4. Data/metrics for CAP
 - ideas on how to get better baseline data for metrics
 - survey in town tax bill?
 - link to survey on website?
 - sample that we call?
 - find what data sources are available
5. Outreach

- Dates for an event at Bromfield Native Garden celebration and Local Small Farmers Market. Looking at possibly a Friday afternoon so there might be school attendance
 - Lions Fall Fest on 9/17 - we have a booth for this event
 - Time is 3 – 9 but probably don't need to be there all hours
 - looking for volunteers (Green team will hopefully join us)
 - promote HarvardEnergize
 - promote residential goals from the CAP
 - have coaches on heat pumps or solar at the booth
 - volunteers requested for coaching
 - Green Team looking for ideas to engage children
 - Sahara (Senior at Bromfield)
 - her senior project is to help us out
 - did a great job on creating a Sendpulse piece on availability of food items from local farms
 - Looking for help on a Sendpulse article on good winterizing practices for your home (send it out before fall gets too far along)
 - hook: high energy prices to heat home!
 - Need 2nd set of eyes to review Ellen's "Consider This" article submission after Deborah edits. Sharon volunteered to read it next
6. Grant request for culverts
- Did not get the grant possibly due to Harvard not being an EJ community.
 - Ellen to reach out to MVP liaison to find out more
7. HCIC Review of MUOD Bylaw proposal for Planning Board
- Our Recommendations:
 - This shouldn't be a one-off bylaw for this special permit. Instead, the village bylaw should be amended
 - PB should talk to Devens Enterprise Commission — they've done a great job on sustainable development
 - We could provide the same questions on the environmental assessment form to go along w/ this
 - We should pursue more general Ayer Rd access to Devens water/sewage for commercial development
 - Note: if we want more specific climate reviews to be required for various town or commercial development projects, bylaws will need to be updated
8. Green Community Funding – Climate leaders
- We were designated a green community in 2010. HEAC responsible for this designation
 - We are eligible for grant funding for projects. HEAC applies yearly.
 - Solar may be funded going forward. Has not been an option for grant funding
 - Climate Leaders – could mean covering the cost of a climate leader, staff person?
 - They're looking for public input on expanding what is included in Green Communities funding
 - Ellen will provide link for the public RFI where comments can be made about the changes
9. Other: Update on Community Choice Aggregation Renewal
- Challenge: prices are high right now
 - Town administration seems to be keeping the fundamentals of it being 100% renewable and that being the default option.
 - There are options for shorter and longer term contracts but have to weigh whether the higher rates could come down in the future and whether to lock in or not to multiple year contract. Shorter contracts have higher rates overall.

- HEAC will comment on the options and get back to town administration

10. Social Gathering

- Friday 8/12 or 8/19. Will ask which date is better or use the latter as a raindate. Ellen to follow-up

Adjourned: 9:20 pm