

**Town of Ipswich
Climate Resiliency Committee
Town Hall, Meeting Room C
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5:30 pm**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

In-person: Mike Johnson – Chair, Carolyn Britt – Vice Chair, Kerry Mackin – Select Board, Carl Nysten, Pav Kneedler, Becky Love

Zoom: Dylan Lewellyn– ELD, Bill Garbati– guest (ESCO firm)

1) Citizen Queries

There were no citizen queries.

2) Review and approve minutes of January meeting

Motion to approve made by Nysten, seconded by Mackin. Unanimously approved.

3) Climate Resiliency Manager Resignation. Johnson announced to the members that Mary DeLai resigned from the Climate Resiliency Manager position. Details of her resignation were not discussed, but the members agreed that the need to backfill the position is urgent. There are a number of active projects and initiatives that require a municipal staff to lead and manage. Johnson noted that the Town Manager, Stephen Crane, has asked Mary to remain on to assist with the ESCO project until the Owner's Project Manager can take on those responsibilities. Crane had reached out to Johnson last week by email about scheduling a meeting to discuss his plans for the position. Johnson will return his email later that evening.

CRC initiatives

4) Public Safety Building Committee Updates (Nysten)

- a. Nysten attended the Feb. 13, 2023 Public Safety Building Committee (PSBC) meeting, where they discussed finishing up the design phase soon, and Britt attended the public presentation by PSBC and the architect on the progress of the building design. The PSBC expects the engineer firm to take 1-2 months to spec out the HVAC system (only air-source heat pump- ASHP- for now) and the full building design. However, Nysten thinks the specs are for system cost only (not operational energy use and cost) but will follow up to confirm. The operational energy use and cost projection is needed to compare the ASHP with ground-source heat pumps.
- b. The Town Manager had mention that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) may be available to offset some of the costs of the GSHP and/or fourth fire truck bay.

- c. The CRC will follow up with the PSBC and Town Manager about having specs prepared for the GSHP, an operational energy and cost projection for ASHP and GSHP, and opportunities for grants, rebates, and other incentives.

5) Energy Savings Performance Contracting (Nylen)

- a. Five ESCO firms had submitted bid proposals, but one was disqualified for technical reasons so only four firms were evaluated. The ESCO project committee reviewed and scored the four proposals, interviewed the two highest scoring firms, and provided the Town Manager with a recommendation for a firm for the Town to contract the work. At this point, the decision lies with the Town Manager.
- b. One critical piece of the ESCO project is conducting an investment grade audit of most of the municipal buildings. However, for the high-middle school building (the largest energy user in the Town) the National Grid gas usage for the winter-spring of 2021-2022 needs to be corrected. Mary DeLai was working with National Grid (Lori Timmerman) to resolve the issue, but it's unclear if she was successful. Johnson will first check with DeLai on the status of that, but if there has not been any progress he will contact JoAnne Bisetta at DOER.

6) Completion of Net-zero Roadmap (Britt)

- a. The MAPC lead for the project (Cara) was going to attend the February meeting to discuss the list of strategies and next steps, but after Mary DeLai's resignation this is on hold. There is still about \$5k in the grant for the project with MAPC, so additional work may be requested. Johnson discussed the need to use the GHG emissions inventory that MAPC conducted for Ipswich at the start of the project about two years ago (propane and fuel oil use was estimated, while electricity and gas use data were available). These data could be used to identify the greatest source of emissions and use the GHG emissions inventory data to quantify the emissions reduction possible for each net-zero strategy. This would be an actual roadmap for the town to use in meeting its net-zero goals. Britt will speak with Cara about whether this can be done with the remaining funds in the grant.

7) Initiate Zero Carbon Resolution Implementation Plan (Johnson)

- a. This is still a high priority, but getting started is dependent upon backfilling the climate resiliency manager position. This is on hold until then.

8) Electric School Bus Initiative (Nylen, Johnson)

- a. The ad-hoc committee for this project (Nylen, Johnson, Blair, Blake (School Superintendent) met with Beacon Mobile (school bus contract company) on February 9, 2023 to discuss progress on the initiative. There are two components of the project: obtaining funding to purchase electric buses and obtaining funding to construct the charging infrastructure. Beacon has an existing regional bus depot in Newbury that they intend to use as a bus charging station. Although they are not interested in pursuing a regional charging hub in Ipswich, they are interested in constructing a charging station

here for Ipswich buses (currently six). The next step is to identify some Town-owned properties that are 1 acre or less, preferably paved (but at least cleared), and reasonably accessible to main roads. Blake will be contacting the Town Manager to get approval to work with the Planning Department to assist in identifying properties. The ad-hoc committee will meet again with Beacon in March to discuss.

- 9) Proposed Gloucester zoning rule changes for climate resiliency. This was not discussed.
- 10) Town Standing Committee (Britt). After a discussion, it was agreed that this should be put on the backburner. The priorities at this time are to get the climate resiliency manager position backfilled and work with the Public Safety Building Committee on the GSHP system.
- 11) Specialized Stretch Code (Britt)
 - a. Britt briefly explained the features of the Specialized Stretch Code, and will be beginning to present to other town boards and committees on it. She will be discussing the new code with the Ipswich Building Inspector to gauge his understanding of the new regulations and whether he will support Ipswich adoption as a Green Community member.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.