

**Town of Ipswich  
Climate Resiliency Committee  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

**Present (members): Mike Johnson, Co-Chair; Carolyn Britt, Co-Chair; Chris Rais; Michele Hunton; Kerry Macken; Rex Bradford; Dylan Lewellyn; Jamie Donovan; Marc Simon; Hannah Wilbur; Becky Love; Tony Marino, Town Manager  
School Interns: Ava Borgman, Ella Borgman  
Meeting Notetaker: Jamie Donovan**

Mike Johnson called the meeting to order, and explained that the CRC could not hold a vote at this meeting because the current meeting was not abiding by the Open Meeting Law statutes due to the expiration of the State exemption for remote meetings during COVID (note: the State Legislature is expected to pass a bill in the next few days to extend the exemption until 2022).

**1. May 18, CRC Meeting Minutes**

- Dylan Lewellyn provided a clarification that Jon Blair did present the status of Turbine 2 in executive session.
- Meetings were unanimously approved by vote.

**2. Update on Municipal Zero Carbon Resolution Implementation Plan**

- Mike and Tony Marino indicated that they had discussed the shortened questionnaire, and felt that it was ready for distribution.
- Mike clarified that only DPW and Facilities department purchases fuels, which simplifies the questionnaire for other departments by allowing removal of fuel purchase questions, since we know the answer.
- Mike asked Tony whether the school department purchases its own fuels. Per Tony, school department purchases fuels through facilities, but are in the school budget. School department owns some smaller busses and vans, but school busses are contracted. Tony to confirm this information.
- Mike stated that town departments, boards, and committees need to be aware of what factor need to be assessed, and that we need to identify decision points and nodes that intersect with the net zero resolution and let the departments, boards, and committees know these intersections.
- Mike asked Tony whether the departments would want a presentation from the CRC on what the resolution means, why we are doing it, etc., and to answer questions about the questionnaires. Tony responded that he would consider the right format for it, but that he has biweekly Monday 10:30 AM meetings with all departments that report to him that would be a good time to review the questionnaire.
- Mike to send final questionnaire to Tony, who will distribute to department heads, boards, and committees a week in advance of meeting with departments at the biweekly meeting.
- The CRC agreed to mention the high school resolution when making presentations to town departments, and if a lot of departments want presentations, we would divvy up

the presentations among CRC volunteers. Jamie Donovan volunteered to help with these presentations as needed.

- Presentations to the schools would need to go through Dr. Blake, and that we would want to set up meetings with teachers since the school department didn't attend Tony's meetings.

### 3. **Public Safety Building**

#### **Beverly Police Department Building:**

- A number of CRC members and town officials toured the new Beverly PD building, including Chris Rais, Mike Jonson, Bob Weatherall (Public Safety Building Committee), Brian Blake, Carl Nysten, Carolyn Britt (Planning Board), Chief Nikas, Jamie Fay (Fincom) and Chub Whitten (School Committee).
- This is a 30k ft<sup>2</sup> net zero building, for the PD only. It uses a ground source heat pump, with wells drilled on site; building heat zones are set up so that temperature can be adjusted for individual rooms; rooftop solar, and parking lot solar awnings.
- Beverly Commissioner of Public Works Mike Collings expects a 7-year payback time for the heating system, and afterwards will save \$33k/ year in utilities costs. Energy costs are \$80k/year for electric heat system as compared to \$140k for a high efficiency gas system.
- Carolyn noted that Beverly considered a heat pump system 5-7 years ago, the politics and knowledge weren't in place for the high school, but were for the PD building.
- Discussion among CRC members that because of the energy savings, gas heating systems no longer make economic sense; ground source heat pumps are ~22% more expensive than gas systems.
- Payback times for GSHP may not fully take into consideration lower maintenance/repair costs versus gas boilers.

#### **Geothermal assessment of building site:**

- Mike indicated that Beverly hired a geothermal consultant – Larry Lessard – and suggested we ask him to give a rundown for what we need to do, and a cost estimate for test wells.
- Tony responded that there is not a budget for test wells, or to pay Lessard for consulting services, and that the town turned down a \$2 million allocation for a study. Potentially Lessard could get involved at a high level at this point.

#### **Revised building cost estimate to meet zero carbon resolution:**

- Mike talked to Bob Weatherall and Chris Rais about revising the building cost estimate for heat pump system, net zero building. The current estimate for the building assumes gas heating system that is built to achieve the minimal building code.
- Tony believes an extensive study is not needed in order to revise the building cost estimate for GSHP/net zero.
- Rex stated that we will have to make the argument for up-front costs in return for later savings (e.g., Beverly PD building 7-year payback)
- Mike said that he believes the appetite in town for net zero buildings is growing, and that there was some call for net zero with the proposed elementary school building several years ago.

#### **4. Solar Subcommittee Presentation**

- Presentation pushed to July

#### **5. MAPC Net Zero Municipality Grant**

- According to Carolyn, Cara and MAPC staffers have had some issues, and have asked to hold a public meeting in September. Need to follow up with her because not clear what is supposed to happen at that meeting, or what we would need to prepare.
- Suggestion to attend one of the other grant recipients' meetings who are further along.
- Question to the group about what Ipswich has already agreed to submit to MAPC.

#### **6. CRC Subcommittee Reports**

##### **Solar Subcommittee**

- Solar subcommittee to present at July CRC meeting.

##### **Communications Subcommittee**

###### **No-Idling awareness campaign:**

- Becky Love is in the process of trying to acquire 10-20 no-idling signs from the state.
- Subcommittee will need to meet with PD, and DPW to determine where to place signs. Some signs will be on private property so will have to coordinate with property owners.
- BOH has list of restaurant owners and contact lists.
- Pamphlets are ready to go, need to print and distribute them. Tony confirmed CRC can use copy machine across from Tony's office at Town Hall.
- Mike asked Tony if the town had access to plastic holders/dispensers for pamphlets. Tony said if town does not have them in stock can order them.
- Becky said she talked to BOH members about no idling, natural gas health effects, going to meet with BOH.

###### **CRC website:**

- Hannah reported that some of the changes had been made to the website. Currently CRC page is a single page, a better structure would be multiple pages with less content each, waiting for the town website update to make further changes.
- Mike asked CRC members to check website for accuracy about their own mentions.

#### **7. Other business**

- Ava and Ella Borgman mentioned that the high school students are learning about net zero buildings, and suggested they could be helpful to boost net zero building support. CRC agreed and thought high school students could be especially helpful with social media and communications subcommittee work.
- Rocky Mountain Institute – Carolyn is looking to set up presentations. Because the stretch code is not going to exclude fossil fuels, towns are going to have to find other ways to exclude them.
- Discussion on possible outreach/education efforts, including possible presentations on heat pumps, articles on heat pumps with a focus on Ipswich, green house tours

- Dylan indicated that ELD signed up for a program that gives Ipswich customers access to heat pump experts for advice, and these experts would be available for presentations.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.