

**Town of Ipswich
Climate Resiliency Committee
Town Hall
Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm
Meeting Minutes**

Attendees: Michael Johnson, Carolyn Britt, Ken Swenson (new FinCom member), Carl Nylen, Michele Hunton, Becky Love, Jon Blair, Ipswich Local News Representative, an unnamed citizen with interest in public safety

Meeting Notetaker: Michele Hunton

Meeting Began at 5:36pm.

- **May 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
 - No minutes to review. The May meeting did not have a quorum.

- **June 7 Meeting with Town Manager**
 - Discussion of energy use and emissions and impact on climate goals.
 - No progress from base year in FY2018 to FY2022.
 - The Green Communities Program goals include a 20% reduction in energy use by the municipal government in 5 years. FY23 would be the 5th year.
 - Discussion of how this also impacts our Zero Carbon Resolution Goals; these goals include a 25% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2025.
 - Spoke to Town Manager on Energy Savings Performance Contracting and audits on buildings. If this moves forward – we should have recommendations in 1-2 years.
 - J. Blair said that there are plusses and minuses to Green Communities Program, there is not much vision for how to reduce energy, rather just grants for weathering and specific reductions.
 - C. Britt plans to review other towns to see how they met their Green Communities goals.
 - J. Blair said something needs to come from top to figure out how to make reductions – someone needs to say we should cut by a certain percent.
 - Discussion of Climate Resilience Position. Discussion of issue with 3 people managing position – (Town Manager, Superintendent, and ELD)
 - Discussion of role of position to review what investments need to be made to achieve the Town’s climate goals.
 - What are the most effective things we can do?
 - Discussion of need to develop an implementation plan for the Zero Carbon Resolution, as well as other climate goals for the Town.
 - Town Manager said that facility director may be best to oversee position.
 - Need to clarify reporting structure for position.

- **Public Safety Building Committee Updates**
 - Nothing before Planning Board as to roof or solar panels on building.
 - Question as to whether will meet Carbon Resolution goal –all electric?
 - Public Safety Building Committee has stated that it will meet the goal per the resolution. As of our last conversation with the Committee, the engineering firm has not conducted a modeling of the building to confirm an ASHP will provide 100% of the heating load all year.
 - We need to find a way to verify this.
 - Discussion of air source heat pump as opposed to ground source.
 - No solar because no funds to do it.
 - M. DeLai had pulled together all of the known incentives for heat pumps.
 - M. Johnson said he would reach out to Bob Weatherall on update.

- **Stretch Code Warrant Article**
 - C. Britt stated that the state recently updated this with an opt-in specialized stretch code.
 - If a building includes fossil fuel HVAC, it must be pre-wired and service capacity for fully electric home. Applies to new buildings – where you essentially need to wire for electric to have compatibility in the future.
 - This is an amendment to the stretch code – 18 communities in state have adopted.
 - M. Johnson stated we need someone from our town government that can push this through rather than just our committee.
 - C. Nylen – Who should article come from at Town Meeting? Need to think this through.
 - Natural progression of Building Code and we are just keeping up.
 - Discussion of reaching out to Green Team to help with this.
 - C. Britt to discuss with Town Manager.
 - B. Love – requested a cost/benefit analysis to this.

- **ELD Residential Loan Program**
 - J. Blair –Utility spends upfront cost and recover it over time with tariff to electric bill.
 - Tied to meter, not individual.
 - Tariff can't exceed 80% of savings.

Vote to adjourn – 7:00 pm.