

**Town of Ipswich
Climate Resiliency Committee
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

Meeting Minutes

**Attendance: Michael Johnson, Chub Whitten, Kerry Mackin, Marc Simon, Christopher Rais, Rex Bradford, Dylan Lewellyn, Carl Nysten, Marty Walsh, Ella Borgman, Ava Borgman, Christopher Doucette, Jon Blair, James Donovan, Becky Love.
Meeting Notetaker: Michelle Hunton**

- 1. June 2021 Meeting Minutes voted on and approved.**
- 2. High-Middle School boiler replacement feasibility study update.**
 - Chris R. and Dr. Blake met with engineers regarding the middle school/high school boiler. Discussed options for both buildings, including geothermal options, and short and long-term goals.
 - Discussion of potential well locations.
 - Study to take place, and take approximately 2-4 weeks, expected to be ready mid-Fall. Study to determine what it will take to swap over to a new system. Larry Lessard to help analyze issues with building systems.
 - This study also includes the Town Hall in addition to the middle and high school.
- 3. Update on the Municipal Zero Carbon Resolution Implementation Plan.**
 - Questionnaire sent to Tony M. for distribution; Tony indicated that he sent to the departments.
 - A meeting is being scheduled with department heads and Michael J. plans to attend and present what the resolution is and to allow for questions.
 - Plan is to set up a timeline to get information back; thinking a one-month schedule should be enough time. (possibly 2 weeks).
 - We should be able to obtain a distribution list for all committees shortly.
- 4. Public Safety Building (PSB)**
 - Met with geothermal heat expert Larry Lessard to discuss feasibility/cost for PSB regarding application of ground source heat pump. Lessard is an expert in these systems for the east coast.
 - Need 90% of building design completed before one can obtain a number for the cost.
 - Feasibility study is based on a natural gas system, the cost of geothermal is approximately 40% greater than the cost of natural gas.
 - The public safety committee studies did not break down the cost of the heating system initially. Chub W. indicated that Tony M. said an engineer can break down that estimate; Michael J. to follow up with Tony M. on costs and break down.
 - Adding test wells on the property to determine depth, etc. should cost approximately \$25-28K (total construction of PSB \$25-30 mill). Tony M. found cost reasonable.
 - Potential date of August 17 for tri-board to meet with Public Safety Group.

- Carl N. suggested that our group meet with the Public Safety Committee sooner rather than later to ensure on same page.
- Michael J. to reach out to Bob Weatherall to see if he can attend our August meeting.
- Jon B. stated the fact that we have our own electric department will decrease the long-term cost as compared to the industry average. They should use Ipswich numbers to lower projected cost.

5. Communications Subcommittee

- No-Idling awareness campaign: Committee obtained 25 signs from the MassDEP for no-idling. Five to six of the potential locations are privately owned and so need permission from owners.
- Becky L. reached out to Shaws ownership, and there was hesitation for signage. Carl N. suggested that IPD and Town Manager should reach out to business owners with a description of our reasoning initially rather than our committee. That could help with an explanation of the state law regarding idling.
- Plan to meet again with police officers to discuss the awareness program, media, etc. Michael J. to reach out to Officer Moore to discuss in more detail.
- Sub-Committee going to reach back out to Ipswich Green Team to include them in no-idling campaign.
- Board of Health meeting regarding no-idling pushed to October date.
- Discussion of updating small corrections on website initially, and then finding out when Town plans to upgrade website in near term to make additional changes.

6. Solar Subcommittee Presentation (Jon, Dylan, Marty, Rex, Marc)

- Rex B., D. Lewellyn, and M. Walsh spoke first on detail of residential issues with regard to solar.
- Discussed ways to help residents get money upfront to pay costs. Discussed reaching out to specific houses where there was a determination that those homes can be successful with solar.
- There are 150 residential installations in town; difficult to move the needle because even though a lot of small installations, they are still a small bite of the apple. Discussion that there is still value in investing in customers.
- Discussion of expanding focus from residential to commercial.
- Jon B. discussed what the priorities should be for focusing on solar. Discussion of commercial/industrial being a needed focus area and high priority area as we are currently low for commercial and increasing solar use in the commercial area can result in a huge benefit.
- Discussion of focusing on financing issue, PACE financing, immediate availability.
- Discussion of what takes priority, local projects, or giant projects in western Mass. just to get to 100% renewable?
- Discussion of letters to residential homes that are worth targeting – multi-prong approach to split up work between teams.
- Michael J. discussed creating a background document of what the benefits of solar are to use for part of the marketing campaign to residences. (saving homeowner money, etc.)
- Discussion that solar issue should be on future agendas.

- Carl N. suggested that we could possibly join efforts on this with the MAPC project, maybe MAPC could help.

Meeting adjourned approximately 8:03 pm.

Next Meeting: August 17