

**Town of Ipswich
Climate Resiliency Committee
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, August 24, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

Meeting Minutes

**Attendance: Carolyn Britt, Christopher Doucette, Michael Johnson, Becky Love, Kerry Mackin, Anthony (Tony) Marino, Carl Nylen, Christopher (Chris) Rais, Marc Simon.
Meeting Notetaker: Dylan Lewellyn**

Michael Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

1. Review and approved July meeting minutes

Carl N. moved to approve the minutes from July's meeting, which was seconded by Kerry Mackin. The vote to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

2. Update of the Municipal Zero Carbon Resolution Implementation Plan (Tony M.)

- The Questionnaire for Zero Carbon Resolution Adoption Plan (Questionnaire) has been distributed to Department heads and directors as well as all boards and committees. Tony M. will bring the Questionnaire before the Select Board at their next meeting. Staff are still compiling the responses, but Tony M. noted that initial reviews of responses received from impactful stakeholders were complete and well done.
- Michael J. informed the group that next steps will be to review the compiled responses and follow up with the respondents' designated contacts.

3. Green Community Program (Tony M.)

- The first-year energy-saving projects that the Town identified in their Green Communities application have been completed, and the Town has received the corresponding grant funding from the State. Tony M. also shared information about the specific projects being pursued for the upcoming grant cycle.
- Carl N. and Michael J. asked about the Hot-water Temperature Reset project identified in the list shared by Tony M., and whether potential plans to replace that HVAC system with a geothermal system would alleviate the need for that project. Chris R. clarified that the results of the ongoing feasibility study would impact whether the Hot-water Temperature Reset project would be pursued. The group discussed the details of the Green Communities Grant Program application cycles and how the Town can be flexible with the energy savings projects it pursues.
- Michael J. inquired about the Town's progress catching up on data entry in the MassEnergyInsight platform, which is used to track the energy use associated with municipal operations. Chris R. reported that data entry is going well and that the new Facilities Specialist has completed additional trainings on using the platform.
- Kerry M. asked if there had been any progress on the effort to install solar panels on the High-Middle School roof. Chris R. reported that he is still trying to connect with the structural engineers to determine cost estimates and emphasized that the roof of

the building will still need replaced regardless. Tony M. also noted that the project is on the Town's longer range capital plan.

4. High-Middle School boiler replacement feasibility study update (Christopher Rais/Tony Marino)

- Tony M. informed the group that the Town has already received several bids for the Feasibility Study and is expecting to receive more. He also mentioned that geothermal heat expert, Larry Lazard, had provided staff with valuable insight about the industry and his experiences with similar projects.
- Tony M. and Chis R. provided additional details about the configuration of the current HVAC system and explained that new ductwork would likely be needed in order to convert the system to a ground-source heat pump. The expected timeline for completion of the Feasibility Study could be as early as late-October, or as late as December.

5. Public Safety Building update (Michael Johnson)

- Michael J. reviewed efforts of committee members to-date, including the group's visits to two public safety buildings recently constructed in other towns.
- Michael J. reported that he attended last week's Tri-Board meeting, where the public safety building was the main topic on the agenda. He noted that the Public Safety Facility Committee's presentation was still using cost estimates from 2019. In an earlier meeting on the same day with some of the members of the Public Safety Committee the meeting, Michael J. asked the Committee to reiterate the requirement for making the building fully electric (per the Zero Carbon Resolution), and the Committee reassured him that it would be. During the Tri-Board meeting that evening, the Chair of the Public Safety Committee and the Select Board both affirmed that the proposed Public Safety Building would be fully electric with a ground- or air-source heat pump.
- Carl N. added that at the last Public Safety Facility Committee meeting he attended, there was discussion about the importance of messaging to the public for Town Meeting. Michael J. said that "highest environmental standards possible" was the message being used, which is not consistent with the Zero Carbon Resolution. The group discussed other suggested talking points associated with a fully electric public safety building such as a quick return on investment and taking market share from natural gas companies. There was also discussion about the potential to share utility resources between building, as in a microgrid, and the costs and benefits associated with that concept.
- Carolyn B. said that the Town was creating a re-use committee to provide guidance on how Town parcels might be converted to other uses. She wondered if they had any input on the Public Safety Building. Tony M. clarified that the committee was set up, but was not expected to have any suggestions ready until Annual Town Meeting.

6. MAPC Net Zero Project update (Carolyn Britt)

- Carolyn B. shared the "Draft Visioning Workshop Agenda 9-21" and informed the group that two Visioning Workshops are being planned in coordination with partners at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to solicit input from the

community regarding net-zero planning. To begin each session, MAPC will explain their findings and committee members will review the climate change work that's been completed to-date. They expect to use vision planning tools such as post cards to your future self and small group breakouts to identify community wants and needs. She requested suggestions from the group on who to invite to the sessions and how to contact them.

- Suggestions included the Trustees, the Rotary Club, the Masonic Lodge, Greenbelt, Mass. Audubon, the Watershed Association, the Historical Society, the school's Green Team or other environmental clubs, the cycling club, gardening clubs, and realtors' associations. It was also noted that local businesses and the general public would be important stakeholders and they should be contacted by local news articles and other postings. It was also suggested that a session specifically for the schools be considered.
- Carolyn will disseminate a list to coordinate contacting the suggested groups. She is also working with MAPC to develop a flyer and will share it when it's available. Tony M. said that he would post a notice on the Town's website, and Dylan L. said he would include a flyer in the utility bills.

7. Communications Subcommittee

- Becky L. reported that members met with Chief of Police, Paul Nikas, and discussed several strategies related to the ongoing Idling Reduction Campaign. "No idling" signage has been received from the State and the Department of Public Works has installed them at several Town-owned sites. She said Tony M. and Chief Nikas will be drafting a letter to send to businesses so more signs can be posted at privately-owned sites. She also noted that educational pamphlets are being distributed throughout town, an article about idling reduction was posted in the local news, and that they're increasing their social media presence about the issue.
- Michael J. added that he believes there is limited awareness that a law about idling reduction exists, and said Chief Nikas was willing to have police officers engage with residents and talk to them about the law.
- Becky L. noted that more information was needed about the process for installing signs at privately-owned sites. Michael J. said that step one is to receive approval from the property owner, and step two is to bring in the Department of Public Works so that the exact location can be agreed upon. Michael J. added that the placement of the signs that were recently installed on town property wasn't ideal, citing examples of the sign at the Rail station and Town Hall. He thinks the signs should be more in view from where people are idling.

8. Other Business

- Michael J. inquired about updates from the Solar Working Group. Marc S. emphasized two takeaways from the working group's report: that businesses need to be engaged more and the message that the group was "looking for megawatts, not kilowatts". Dylan L. added that the State's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program could be an area for the committee to focus on. Michael J. said he'd add the Solar Working Group to the agenda for the next meeting and asked the working group to prepare action items. Carl N. added that he found the key challenges from the

working group's report interesting and suggested having a discussion about those challenges with the larger group to tackle those challenges.

Marc S. moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Carolyn B. The vote to adjourn the minutes passed unanimously at 8:02pm.