

**Town of Ipswich
Climate Resiliency Committee
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Kerry Mackin, Rex Bradford, Chris Doucette, Chris, Michele Hunton, Mike Johnson, Hannah Wilbur, Carl Nylen, Carolyn Britt, Chris Rais, Ella and Ava Borgman, Dylan Lewellyn, Notetaker: Becky Love

Michael Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:34pm

1. Review and approve August meeting minutes

A few minor revisions were made under topic of public safety building to clarify that the cost estimate information was from the 2019 feasibility study. Reiterated requirement to make building fully electric at two separate meetings. Asked to clarify language how the building be heated. Bob Weatherall and Tammy Jones confirmed that building will be fully electric. Also changed to use consistent terminology when using zero carbon. The Committee voted to approve the minutes. Passed unanimously by those that attended.

2. Update of the Municipal Zero Carbon Resolution Implementation Plan

- The responses to the questionnaire have not been received. The public safety building is a good example for why zero carbon resolution needs to be approved and implemented. This should not be something the CRC oversees; needs to be integrated into town's functions. Tony has questionnaire results (questionnaire sent out in May). Suggestion to write Tony a note requesting the responses and let him know the next step will be to send request to Select Board. Hannah suggests copying Leah in the email to Tony as she will likely be the person to provide the responses.
- How to move this responsibility off the committee to the town? One of the original charges of the CRC is to work with Town Manager to hire a CR Coordinator for the town. This could be a part-time position, working for town across departments and reporting to Town Manager. Responsibilities might include: municipal vulnerability grant, Green Communities, energy issues, seeking grants, zero carbon resolution. Now is the time to get included into next year's budget. It may be a hard sell to bring on full time. Chris Rais – Hard for anyone to add more to their plate. A person in this position could take on multiple projects, grant writing. Need to talk to Tony ASAP, as there may need to be an amendment in budget articles. We will struggle to keep momentum for lack of dedicated staff. Staff person should not be assigned to a particular department, need to figure a way for person to move across departments and offices (likely under Town Manager's office). Need to present in way that resonates with electorate (how position will save town \$). There is some administrative money that could be pulled from Green Communities – max of 10K. Competitive process. Application is due Oct 8th. Hopefully we will know more about whether it's been accepted in a month or so. There is interest by committee to raise

subject on hiring Climate Resilience Coordinator. What are the options for creating a position - whether part or full time? Requirement and needs will only grow. Hannah suggests coming to a meeting with a job description. CRC has one on file that may need updating as it was initially drafted 4-5 years ago.

3. Public Safety Building letter (Mike)

- Want the PSB to be used as an example or demonstration for how a public building can meet environmental standards and also save town and taxpayers money. If approved, it's a win for the town and the CRC.
- Review and discussion of draft letter
 - Rex – letter has the right information; however the necessary salesmanship is buried. Need to make letter resonate with general public. Remind people what the point is front and center and show them the benefits.
 - Jon – letter well written and anecdotally support PSB, but do not think it's appropriate to endorse the building. Not convinced it has met standard of CRC. As a committee we haven't worked closely with PSB committee. A lot to be seen about whether it hits the points on climate resilience and adaptation. It could erode our credibility to throw endorsement without these considerations. There are other issues besides electrification when we talk about climate resilience. Is building safe from flooding? What landscaping features? How will it address stormwater needs, drought etc? Is it LEED certified and what are plans to address more frequent or severe storms? Mike believes there are opportunities to get many of these things done. Building has not been designed yet. Carl recommends adding these concerns in the letter. Let's get these considerations in there. Carolyn recommends CRC should support in so far that it meets the zero carbon resolution. Jon – we should not sacrifice our better interest to meet request. If bid comes high and they decide to get rid of things we think are important – that's not resilience. Challenge the public safety committee to meet these recommendations. Show us where they will have rain gardens, passive cooling, etc. Not our place to make sure they secure funding. Putting a letter out is a form of leverage. General agreement with the idea of expanding in the letter elements that should be considered. Need to get letter submitted to local news soon.
 - We need to think more broadly than carbon emissions. Building has not gone through full design yet. Do we want to make this conditional on other climate adaptation measures during the design phase? Provisional approval. CRC is enthusiastic that this building can withstand more adverse weather conditions, stands up against heat, SLR, increased flooding, envisions what we hope it to be and end it with something like: if the public safety building receives approval it's our hope that this can be made possible. If approved, we hope they'll hold to this commitment. Suggestion to redraft letter and give people time to review and provide comments to Mike. Allows for what we envision and what we hope building will become.

Carolyn moved to authorize Mike to incorporate these suggestions and comments, redraft the letter and get the revised letter back out to the

committee to review. Mike can schedule a meeting as needed to vote on final version. Motion, seconded. Passed unanimously.

4. MAPC Net Zero Project update (Carolyn)

- Public workshops schedule for Sept. 28 (10:30 am) and 30 (6 pm). Most people signed up for workshop on 28th.
- Mike added contact information in the spreadsheet. Between two workshops, we have 20 people. Don't need a breakout group when divided between two events. People have to register ahead of time. Letting people know and getting these in people's hand is important. Flyers will come in people's utility bills. Jon has provided slide to let folks know what we've already done. Sign up and tell your friends!

5. Communications Subcommittee

- No-Idling awareness campaign
 - Sent draft letter to police department – going to be signed by Board of Health, Town Manager, Chief Nikas, will go to private property owners. Mike has final draft letter to send to the police department and final list of actions and signs to be placed on properties. Want to include Town Manager in this meeting. Letter describes no idling law and implications of idling (health and climate impacts, wear and tear on vehicle) and asks property owner to work with us to allow town to post sign. Tony approved letter. Need to figure out where signs go. Received 25 and they've installed most. Becky will request 30 – 40 more from MassDEP
 - Idling reduction at schools. Hannah coordinating with Green Team at elementary schools. Also talked about officers handing out pamphlets. Hannah working with GT on posting something on social media. Discussed getting another article in local news. Ella and Ava reaching out to Ella Niederheman. Meeting with Board of Health – planning to provide them a letter and specific resources before joining a meeting. Katie Norris and Karen reached out to have someone from CRC come talk about the committee, efforts and how students can help. Becky presenting to Winthrop later this month. Looking to have Doyon join conversation. This may be a separate talk.
 - CRC website – discussed some minor updates – larger updates on hold until web site transition is complete

6. Solar Subcommittee

- Feedback from last time was well received. Decided to hold off before digging deeper into this topic until next meeting.

7. Other business – none at this time

8. Meeting adjourned 8:15pm