

**Climate Action Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2016, 6:00 p.m.  
Brookline Town Hall, Room 111**

*Members Present: Deborah Rivers, Michael Berger, Alan Leviton, Werner Lohe, Linda Olson Pehlke, Kathleen Scanlon, Ali Tali, Don Weitzman*

*Staff: Lara Curtis Hayes*

*Others Present: John Harris, Wendy McMuller, David Pantalone*

**Call to order, welcome and approval of minutes**

Deborah Rivers called the meeting to order. Deborah said a number of people have meetings tonight so we will adjourn early.

Alan Leviton ***motioned to approve*** the minutes from January 25, 2016.

Linda Olson Pehlke ***seconded*** the motion.

Upon a vote, the motion ***passed unanimously*** (7-0-1 ( Don Weitzman abstaining)).

**Discussion of Community Choice Aggregation and ways to begin moving forward with a program**

Lara Curtis Hayes reviewed the Town Meeting articles on aggregation, noting that aggregation is where the Town contracts for the electric supply on behalf of the basic service rate payers. Lara said the MAPC has completed a joint regional RFP for an aggregation energy broker, and although the town did not join the RFP process in the beginning, the town may still be able to be a part of that process and partner with MAPC's selected broker. The committee talked further about the MAPC process. Lara said she would like to gauge the CAC's interest in being the committee that works on the aggregation issue, partnering with a broker and making recommendations to the Selectmen.

Linda Olson Pehlke asked for more details about the MAPC procurement. Alan Leviton asked about the energy broker. The committee discussed the energy broker's role in aggregation and the overall process.

Werner Lohe said he's inclined to have the CAC work on the issue. Werner asked if there would be a Selectman on the committee. Lara said she didn't know.

Don Weitzman supported having the CAC work on this issue, but the details are important. There might be a need for expertise from people outside of the CAC, and asking for their assistance should be an option if needed.

Deborah Rivers said we should consult with Nancy Heller to see if she has any thoughts on the Selectmen's role in this process.

Alan Leviton, Werner Lohe, and Kathleen Scanlon all expressed interest in working on community choice aggregation. Don Weitzman also said he may be available.

Kathleen Scanlon asked if we could exit the MAPC procurement once we join. Lara said she believed the town could use a different broker if they wanted to, even if they joined the MAPC procurement. Werner said we may want to work with a broker that is not partnering with other communities so we can have

their undivided attention. Lara said it might also be valuable to work with a broker who is very familiar with the Department of Public Utilities process too, so both options might work.

Deborah Rivers asked why there isn't staff available to work on this project. Don Weitzman said it's common for there to be significant input from volunteers on projects, such as with a town construction project.

The committee talked about the scope of work for such a committee, and whether the CAC wants to be an advocate for a strong renewable energy percentage as part of the aggregation effort. The committee reviewed prices for renewable energy available through Mass Energy, through NSTAR Green when it was still an option, and other companies.

The CAC expressed general interest in working on the issue, but with some further questions. The CAC also would like to hear Nancy Heller's thoughts on this issue. The CAC said the first task would be to flesh out the first steps of the aggregation process. David Pantalone expressed interest in working on the aggregation effort if the committee goes beyond CAC membership.

Lara said she would check in with the Selectmen's Office staff, give them an update on the CAC's thoughts, and then report back.

#### **Updates from staff, including review of upcoming Green Community grant**

Lara Curtis Hayes updated the CAC on the Green Community grant, noting that the Town is considering applying for funding for both a DPW project for decorative LED lighting at the new Emerald Necklace crossing and/or Building LED lighting projects in some municipal buildings.

Lara Curtis Hayes updated the CAC on the Climate Preparedness Taskforce and the AGU project. Lara said she had her first conference call with two scientists associated with Northeastern University, who have committed to helping with evaluating extreme temperatures and heat islands in Brookline.

#### **Updates on other current and planned Climate Action Committee projects and areas of interest**

Linda Olson Pehlke updated the committee on the net metering letter. Linda said there were very few questions, and the Board of Selectmen approved the letter.

John Harris said he was working on a Town Meeting resolution to support net metering, which would be a continuation of the letter recommended by the CAC and endorsed by the Selectmen. John encouraged others to join the effort and help out. Deborah Rivers asked if John would like the CAC to have a public hearing on this issue. Linda Olson Pehlke said the CAC would probably want to hold a hearing to make a recommendation. The CAC discussed the schedule going forward.

Don Weitzman said we may want to have a formal discussion on town staffing for the CAC going forward. The committee agreed.

David Pantalone reminded everyone about Climate Week coming up in March. He said materials will start to be distributed next week, and asked for help in getting the word out. Kathleen Scanlon said Mothers Out Front is working with others on a natural gas leaks workshop and panel for Climate Week.

**Other business**

Deborah Rivers asked the CAC if they would like to have the next meeting in March. The committee reviewed the Climate Week schedule for March, noting that there is a conflict on March 28<sup>th</sup> with an author Climate Week event starting that night at 6:30 p.m. Deborah said we could schedule a half hour meeting in March or we could check the availability of members for the week before on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Lara Curtis Hayes said she would send out a doodle poll to check member availability.

Don Weitzman motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Linda Olson Pehlke seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.