

DRAFT - 1/18/19, 2/16/19, finalized/approved 2/19/19 WL

MINUTES

NET ZERO NINTH SCHOOL (NZNS) SUBCOMMITTEE of the Select Board's Climate Action Committee (SBCAC)

January 15, 2019 (Tuesday), 8:00 a.m.
Brookline Town Hall, Room 310

PRESENT

Subcommittee Members: Alan Leviton, Werner Lohe (chair), Susan Martin, David Pantalone,
David Pearlman

Staff: Maria Morelli, Senior Planner

Guest Speakers: none

Others: none

Werner Lohe convened the meeting at 8:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

Minutes of the October 30, 2018 meeting and the December 5, 2018 meeting (with correction to third-to-last paragraph) were approved unanimously.

DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS, ACTIONS, & VOTES

1. Update on BHS Expansion, Baldwin School Expansion, and Driscoll School Expansion – Werner reported that Ray Masak is unable to attend today since a meeting of the Driscoll School Building Committee was scheduled for the same time (actually, 7:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.). Werner reported that he attended the first 25 minutes of that meeting, and was pleased to see that the last item on the agenda is “Fossil Fuel Free School and Sustainability Update.”

2. Design Development Process, Subcommittee Reports, etc. – There was general discussion noting that with the passage of warrant article amendments at December Town meeting (amendments initiated by Advisory Committee members that prohibit any schematic design funds from being spent on either the Baldwin or Driscoll Schools for design of fossil-fuel free systems), the major goals for which this subcommittee was formed have been accomplished.

Maria noted that the fossil-fuel-free movement that began on the floor of Town Meeting in November and continued in December has spurred action in Town government generally. Specifically, she noted that in the next few weeks, the Town will issue its 2020 budget document, the “FY-2020 Financial Plan.” She expects that the Select Board FY2020 Objectives (which normally appear at the beginning of Section IV of the plan) will contain six objectives related to climate change: 1) a plan to convert municipal buildings to all-electric systems by 2030, 2) a plan to convert the municipal vehicle fleet to all-electric by 2030, 3) to analyze options for the municipal electricity contract in the hope of increasing renewable energy use, 4) to assist in development of solar installations on Town-owned property, 5) to develop an energy conservation policy for municipal departments and the schools, and 6) to establish a municipal energy reduction plan, such as a 50% reduction in energy consumption by 2030.

Susan suggested that there are four concrete tasks on which the subcommittee has been working, and suggested that we consider each, and decide how to proceed. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing these.

i) The subcommittee decided in October 2018 (or earlier) to recommend presenting a resolution to Spring 2019 Town Meeting to encourage the Town to explore Zero-Emissions/Fossil-Fuel-Free buildings for all new municipal construction. Alan noted that such a resolution should be sure to include the standards set in Warrant Article 21 at Spring 2017 Town Meeting. It was generally agreed that terms need to be clearly defined, particularly since our current intent (parallel to the FY2020 Select Board objectives, above) is to push for all-electric buildings, and therefore it needs to be clear that this subcommittee has focused on buildings that are fossil-fuel-free with regard to site energy, and that while the question of source energy has been discussed, it has generally been seen as beyond our scope.

ii) The subcommittee has frequently discussed needed changes to the Building Commission Bylaw, but that was seen as a means of providing accurate life-cycle cost analysis for energy efficiency measures. Though the bylaw would profit from revision with regard to cost-benefit analysis—particularly replacing simple payback period analysis with life-cycle cost analysis—it is no longer a critical need from the perspective of addressing climate change in new school buildings, and therefore it was agreed that this is lower priority. David Pantalone noted that we should be sure not to lose sight of the need to educate the public, as well as Town officials, on the importance of better financial analysis.

iii) Brookline Architectural Design Development Process (draft) – Preparing a document or even a manual, perhaps starting with a checklist, that defines a Whole Building Design or Integrated Design process for the town remains an important mid-term priority. The subcommittee has felt for several months that this work should be done by Maria and Ray Masak in consultation with the subcommittee. It remains something that Maria should take the lead on.

iv) Report (draft) – The subcommittee decided several months ago to proceed with an interim report, perhaps following along the lines of the Interim Report and Recommendations issued in September 2017. There was agreement that we should move forward with such a report, though now it may well be a final report, and is likely to be shorter than the previous report.

3. Tasks – Susan will begin drafting the report discussed in section (iv), above. Werner will begin drafting the resolution discussed in section (i), above.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

The next meetings of the subcommittee will be:

Tuesday, February 19, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m.
Meetings are every third Tuesday of the month.

DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

FY2019 [sic] Select Board Objectives (Submitted January 10, 2019)