

Select Board Climate Action Committee Minutes

January 25, 2021, 6 pm.

Meeting held remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19

SBCAC Members (in attendance noted by Y/N)

Nancy Heller, Co-Chair	Y	James Carr	Y	Alan Leviton	N	Kathleen Scanlon	Y
Werner Lohe, Co-Chair	Y	David Gladstone	N	David Pearlman	Y	Don Weitzman	
Dan Bennett	Y	Dr. Swannie Jett	Y	Linda Olson Pehlke	Y*	(vacancy)	~
Michael Berger		David Lescohier	Y	Deborah Rivers	Y		

*Linda Olson Pehlke left early as noted below.

Staff: Kara Brewton

Guests in attendance included: Deane Coady, Diane Sokal, Homa Sarabi-Daunais, John Harris, Sydney Neugebauer, Taylor Braun-Jones, Tracie Burns

Materials provided ahead of time: December 21, 2020 draft meeting minutes

Materials presented: “Brookline Sustainability: 2020 Year in Review / Looking Ahead into 2021“, 1/25/2021, K. Brewton

After making sure that Committee members could fully participate in the remote meeting, Nancy Heller opened the meeting.

Minutes

The SBCAC VOTED by roll call vote to approve the 12/21/2020 meeting minutes (in favor: WL, AL, DR, LOP, JC, KS, DP; abstained: DL).

Update and discussion regarding search for Assistant Director for Sustainability

Kara Brewton stated that while no final decisions have been on any of the more than 100 applicants that have applied to date, the position will remain open until a candidate is found. She asked that Committee members assist in posting the job description to their networks.

In response to a question by James Carr, Nancy Heller noted that recruiting for the vacant SBCAC member, should resume after an Assistant Director for Sustainability is in place and discussions resume about how the membership should be reorganized - and therefore what kind of candidate the SBCAC would want to recruit.

Staff & Committee Member Updates

Kara Brewton reviewed the Town's greenhouse gases as a whole (including public and private uses, last updated in 2008), the types of reporting data that the Town tracks annually regarding municipal/school energy use – primarily for the Green Communities reporting requirements, and then an update on recent work categorized by the six identified strategies in the Town's Climate Action Plan.

Looking at the annual Green Communities data for municipal/school use, Kara noted:

- Weather-normalized energy use has decreased approximately 12.6%, comparing Fiscal Year 2020 to Fiscal Year 2009.
- Decreased energy use has significantly occurred in street/traffic lights, and we expect to see significant decreases in the coming years in vehicle use.
- Building energy use has gone up 17.2%, even with energy conservation measures added; we suspect this is largely due to increased and expanded use of our buildings.
- The reports allow us to in the future be able to focus on less energy efficient buildings such as our Municipal Service Center and Kirrane School and compare them to other municipalities' data of the same use type.
- We can also track individual buildings pre-and post-renovation/ construction. A guest at the meeting also suggested showing what the energy use was per enrolled student in addition to per square foot.
- According to our utility records of actual energy use per square foot, the Ridley School is still about the median compared to our other elementary schools that use this same tracking; additional insulation was installed within the last year between the first floor and garage, so hopefully we'll see the efficiency drastically improve post-COVID conditions.

Following significant discussion, Committee members noted:

- Interest in finding out more about commissioning processes, and to what extent the end users of the buildings were trained.
- Interest in finding out whether the Town is also conducting retro commissioning for school buildings that are not funded by the state building authority (which is one of their requirements).
- Interest in whether and when the transfer station might be considered again for solar panel installation.
- Interest in closely tracking design, modeling of energy use versus real-life use especially with the Driscoll and Pierce Schools.
- They were interested in learning more about whether principals are involved in the design phase regarding energy use and plug load needs and expectations, in addition to points that are publicly talked about primarily surrounding academic needs, etc.

Nancy Heller then gave an update on the gas leaks collaborative work with other municipalities. The group was successful in getting an interactive gas leaks map with National Grid, although that website hasn't turned out to be quite as useful as they thought it would be. National Grid reports fixing over 100 leaks in the past year in Brookline. At their last meeting, Audrey

Schulman of the Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) organization presented information on a pilot with a gas utility developer, and municipality to install a mini-geothermal district. National Grid has applied, but not yet been approved, to offer a similar PILOT program in their service area. Nancy has invited Audrey to speak at the next SBCAC meeting in February. Kathleen Scanlon suggested Nancy invite DPW Commissioner Gallentine to the next HEET meeting.

James Carr noted that Alison Steinfeld was going to be giving a presentation to the Planning Board about the Department's initiatives, and thought SBCAC members might be interested in joining this conversation.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.