

## Select Board Climate Action Committee Minutes

July 26, 2021, 6:00 pm.

Meeting held remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19

SBCAC Members (in attendance noted by Y/N)

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

Staff: Thomas Barrasso

Guests: Lisa Cunningham

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

### **Minutes**

The SBCAC VOTED by roll call voted to approve the meeting minutes of June28, 2021.

### **Working Team (or Subcommittee or other) to Reexamine the Role of the SBCAC and Reorganize and Reduce the Size of the SBCAC (Collins Center recommendation, p. 18) by Warrant Article (Spring 2022 Town Meeting) -**

The board discussed how to proceed who to lead or co-lead -- The board felt strongly about making it a "Working team" wouldn't be subject to Open Meeting Law. Need to bring different points of view. What are our views? What do we want the SBAC to be doing?

Michael Berger stated we have spent too much time on too many things. We need a clear message about Climate Action Plan. Are we on track or not? The SBAC feels like it's an advisory committee to the Town.

The board felt the Working team should be;

- Small working team
- People with technical skills who could advise TB
- Set up deliverables

Thomas Barrasso: Still formulating what I need.

Alan: The last 2 years can't think of any significant accomplishments .

**The following are notes provided by Co-Chair W. Lohe after the meeting in an email dated 07/26/2021:**

*Agenda item no. 2: Working Team (or subcommittee or other) to Reexamine the Role of the SBCAC and Reorganize and Reduce the Size of the SBCAC (Collins Center recommendation, p.18) by Warrant Article (Spring 2022 Town Meeting)*

Werner Lohe introduced this topic, noting that it was discussed last month, and that the Collins Center recommendations have been discussed several times. Heather Hamilton, Thomas Barrasso, and he discussed it between meetings and added Don Weitzman's point that the size and organization of SBCAC shouldn't be discussed without also discussing the role of the committee. A warrant article for Town Meeting in Spring of 2022 may be appropriate, and the question for discussion today is how we move forward—with a Working Team or a subcommittee or some other way. Whatever we decide, the co-chairs and Assistant Director for Sustainability Planning would discuss the approach with the Town Administrator and hope to have formed the group to start work right after Labor Day.

Linda Olsen Pehlke asked for an explanation of the warrant-article approach. Werner Lohe noted that the SBCAC was created in 2008 by Town Meeting warrant article and that the Spring 2021 Town Meeting created a Division of Sustainability under the management of an assistant director within the Planning Department by warrant article. (See General Bylaws, §§ 3.12.4, 3.12.12.) In addition, a warrant article provides a public process with a specific deadline.

Linda Olsen Pehlke suggested that if a working team is small, care should be taken to be sure that it includes people with divergent views on the major issues considered. Don Weitzman agreed (later clarifying that he, too, favored a working team over a formal subcommittee of the SBCAC).

Werner Lohe stated that if we go forward with a working team, he would work to be sure there were diverse points a view. In addition, the idea of working teams is that they do not have a fixed membership—that participation is open to anyone. Ideally, it would be small, with perhaps two Town staff members, two or three town residents, and two or three members of the SBCAC. (It was noted that Heather Hamilton's participation would be valuable.) Since it would be an open group, people could monitor the working team's progress, and in addition, even though working teams are not subject to the Open Meeting Law, the team should prepare minutes of its meetings and should report on its work at each SBCAC meeting. In addition, the first meeting should perhaps be a larger one to ensure maximum diversity of input, with the team getting smaller as it continues its work.

Linda Olsen Pehlke suggested that when the SBCAC is reorganized it does not need to be composed of representatives from various boards and organizations, but rather of people with relevant expertise. Kathleen Scanlon agreed, noting that it might be a very small group whose major role would be to support the Assistant Director of Sustainability Planning, since advocates are not needed on the committee to the extent that they were when it was created. Michael Berger and Deborah Rivers both suggested that it might be unwise to reduce the size of the SBCAC.

Werner Lohe offered a motion (seconded by ???): “that it is the sense of the SBCAC that the co-chairs and Tom Barrasso should move forward, in consultation with the Town Administrator's Office, to create a small Working Team that includes SBCAC members, Brookline residents, and Town staff to reexamine the role of the SBCAC, reduce it in size, and reorganize it by Warrant Article for Spring 2022 Town Meeting.”

Deborah Rivers moved to amend the motion by striking words “reduce it in size.” She then accepted a friendly amendment to her motion to amend replace the words “reduce it in” with “consider its.” The SBCAC voted unanimously to accept the Rivers amendment, with the friendly amendment.

The SBCAC voted unanimously “that it is the sense of the SBCAC that the co-chairs and Tom Barrasso should move forward, in consultation with the Town Administrator's Office, to create a small Working

*Team that includes SBCAC members, Brookline residents, and Town staff to reexamine the role of the SBCAC, consider its size, and reorganize it by Warrant Article for Spring 2022 Town Meeting.”*

Werner Lohe asked if anyone was interested now in being on the working team or co-leading it with a Town staff member. Deborah Rivers said she might consider being the co-leader.

Werner Lohe made a motion to create a small working team in consultation with the Town Administrators office to

- Re-examine the role of the SBAC
- Consider the size
- Reorganize
- Consider the size
- Warrant Article Spring 2022 Town Meeting

The Board Voted Unanimously in Favor

### **Boylston Corridor Update:**

Kara Brewton gave a presentation and updated the SBCAC

- Indicating no build areas in a couple locations to preserve tree canopy
- Adopting site plan review to assist DPW's tree canopy policies for more types of development
- Requiring in exchange for some zoning flexibility: fossil fuel free construction, green roofs
- Incentivizing reusing existing buildings for some zoning flexibility
- Enabling a reduction of parking in the corridor by special permit
- Recommending to MassDOT a Boylston St. design with more tree canopy and separate bicycle lanes, less on-street parking within the state right-of-way

The Committee felt strongly about tree canopy standards for this corridor and it being a very important issue for Brookline.

The SBAC Committee thanked Kara fo her great presentation.

### **Director Update**

Strategic Plan (Priority Projects)

- Roof top solar for Heath and Runkle schools and the Municipal Service Garage
- Electrical contracts for the Town
- 20 % goal to hit for Green Communities
- Electrification
- Stormwater Management
- Charging Stations – possibly work with surrounding communities.

Geothermal

**Other Business**

David Gladstone spoke of the American Recover Act money that the Committee should be thinking of good projects for the Town that falls under the standards of recovery money. Keep our eyes on other communities to see what they are doing.

“Climate is Everyone’s Business in Brookline” and he encourages organizations to think that way.

Lisa Cunningham, attendee; “Climate website is out of date, woefully lacking to reflect what we’re doing as a Town. Climate emergency, Net Zero. Need to keep the Website up to date would be helpful.

Linda Pehlke told the Committee that she resigned from the Transportation Board to take a seat on the Advisory Board.

Next meeting August 23, 2021

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM