

Select Board Climate Action Committee Minutes
September 27, 2021, 6:00 pm.

Meeting held remotely on Zoom due to COVID-19

SBCAC Members (in attendance noted by Y/N)

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|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Heather Hamilton, Co-Chair | Y | | | Alan Leviton | Y | Kathleen Scanlon | Y |
| Werner Lohe, Co- Chair | Y | David Gladstone | Y | | | Don Weitzman | Y |
| Dan Bennett | N | Wendy Machmuller | Y | Linda Olson Pehlke | Y | (vacancy) | ~ |
| Michael Berger | Y | | | Deborah Rivers | Y | | |

Staff: Linda Hickey

After making sure that Committee members could fully participate in the remote meeting, Werner Lohe opened the meeting and asked members to introduce themselves to Wendy Machmuller new Member representing Advisory of Public Health.

Minutes

The SBCAC Unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of July 26, 2021.

The SBCAC voted the August 23, 2021 meeting minutes with corrections as requested with a roll call vote.

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|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Deborah Rivers – yes | Michael Berger – yes | Don Weitzman - abstain |
| Alan Leviton - abstain | Linda Pehlke – yes | David Gladstone – yes |
| Kathleen Scanlon – yes | Heather Hamilton – yes | Werner Lohe - yes |

The vote was 7 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain.

Updates: Warrant Articles

Five warrant articles out of the 30 that relate to climate change
All positive not controversial

Michael Berger wanted to note that we should be looking at the Climate Action Plan and discussing how to move initiatives forward. A lot of time reviewing issues that the Committee is obviously going to endorse. We need to spend more time on Climate Action plan.

Werner summarized the articles that relate to the Climate Change.

Deborah Rivers suggested that going forward the SBAC should have a subcommittee or a working Team that reviews the warrant articles and reports back to the larger committee and that would be part of restructuring.

Warrant Articles

Article 16 – Driscoll School Geothermal (October 5th Special Town Meeting)

Article 17 – Resolution regarding the Compost program

Article 18 - Resolution Town using low carbon concrete

Articles 23 &24 – Reducing off Street Residential parking requirement

Article 25 – Require EV ready parking spaces

David Gladstone: “Geo thermal very expensive is this the best use of our money.”

Linda Pehlke: “We do not need to be tearing down perfectly fine buildings.”

Werner Lohe – At this time we should not endorse any of the Warrant Articles as Climate friendly. Suggest we do not make a recommendation for or against them.

Michael Berger: Which is better expenditure in terms of climate Geo thermal – positive vs negative. Need a bench mark – Does it advance the climate action plan? Does it make financial sense? Committee should focus on what it offers for the Town.

Linda Pehlke noted that she agreed with Michael Berger that assessing potential Warrant Articles as to whether or not they are in compliance with our Climate Action Plan was a useful metric to assess WA’s on.

Director Update

Thomas Barrasso could not attend the meeting tonight - he did send a video to update the Committee.

Updates: Achieve grants for the Town – MAPC for technical assistance for Net Zero planning- for \$5,000.00 figuring out on how were going to deploy that.

Technical assistance through DOR and U Mass – (no amount yet) Audit undertaking of ECM’s (Energy Conservation Measures) figuring out road map to get to 20%.

Geothermal at Driscoll : Looks promising, numbers are high well within reason of current costs of project of this scale.

A member of the Committee stated: Possible advantage for Geo Thermal – incase of emergency’s could use for shelters?

Don Weitzman – In support of Geo Thermal delighted for this to go forward.

Time for people to support and act now.

Heather Hamilton: The original amount voted almost two years ago would be added to the debt exclusion. We may need ½ of Town meeting to Vote if note could be bonded would need 2/3 of Town Meeting.

Deborah Rivers – Acting now on embodied carbon is critical. It will take 10 - 20 years for the benefits of reduced energy use of new building to make up for GHG emissions of the construction materials/ process to build it. The Town is making a big mistake not paying attention to it [embodied carbon]. Pierce School is headed in the same direction by not finding a way to save and reuse a portion of the existing buildings (structural system at a minimum).

US Open discussion

David Gladstone discussions of U S Opens sustainability. A letter was read from Eric Stimer, Director, USGA Open.

-The USGA does have internal staff focused on sustainability

- Directed to the USGA website how they support sustainability issues

Next meeting between Town and Country club, we will speak more about Sustainability.

Reconstructing this committee – At our July meeting, we suggested a working team. Waiting for response from Mel and Alison.

Heather Hamilton; everyone at capacity, probably won't be able to come with a game plan till December. Others can move ahead if they have ideas.

David Gladstone – small business PILOT program with an Energy coach to help recover from COVID

Motion to adjourn –

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next meeting Monday, October 25, 2021

