

Select Board Climate Action Committee Minutes

October 25, 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	Y			Alan Leviton	Y	Kathleen Scanlon	N
Werner Lohe, Co- Chair	Y	David Gladstone	Y	Stephen Ehrenberg	N	Don Weitzman	Y
Dan Bennett	N	Wendy Machmuller	Y	Linda Olson Pehlke	N	(vacancy)	~
Michael Berger	Y			Deborah Rivers	Y		

Staff: Thomas Barrasso
Linda Hickey

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

Minutes

The SBCAC Unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of September 27, 2021 with Alan Leviton's change with a roll call vote.

Deborah Rivers – yes Michael Berger – yes Don Weitzman - abstain
Alan Leviton - yes Wendy Machmuller- abstain David Gladstone – yes
Heather Hamilton – yes Werner Lohe - yes

Director's Update:

Thomas Barrasso – “I've been focusing on Hazard Mitigation plan. Working closely with Cheryl Snyder from the Emergency Management Office and Fire Chief as well as several other departments and we're trying to put together a group that will attack this and prepare what we need to submit. These requirements are part of FEMA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and needs to be updated. I think we did the last update in 2016 and part of that update now needs to have included with it the merging of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Climate Action Plan. So those two things must come together to accomplish that task we are going to have some outside assistance. We do have some monies and are submitting for a grant. There will be a lot of public outreach that will need to happen to bring this together.”

Attendee Lisa Cunningham asked, “What initiatives is the town considering in terms of ARPA funding for climate mitigation issues?”

Thomas Barrasso answered; Storm Water resiliency

- The plans for these assets will come from both the public and internal to the town

Werner Lohe

To Support the letter submitted by Heather Hamilton and Werner Lohe for the Urban Forest Masterplan

Deborah Rivers

Brookline Green Space has followed the development of the Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan. One of BGSA’s concerns is will there be funding to implement it. If not, it’s just another document that sits on the shelf. I don't know if you've addressed funding in your letter, but I think that's something that we should consider ARPA funds to help kick start this effort.

Don Weitzman made a motion to authorize Werner Lohe and Heather Hamilton to sign the letter of support.

Michael Berger seconded

Deborah Rivers – Abstain
Alan Leviton - yes
Heather Hamilton – yes

Michael Berger – yes
Wendy Machmuller- Yes
Werner Lohe - yes

Don Weitzman - yes
David Gladstone – yes

The vote was 7 Yes, 1 Abstain

Presentation

Thomas Barrasso introduced Nicole St Clair Knobloch, Olifant

Mass Timber Construction

Presentation Mass Timber

- Cross laminated Timber to replace concrete and steel
- Climate and our conservation solutions into the marketplace
- Lighter than steel and concrete
- Timber use for 6-12 stories allows to build up to 18 stories
- Adding more Timber would reduce Global Warming Potential
- Bringing this to the city – bring value back to working forest land
- Continue to keep forests as forests
- Cities and Towns should be thinking about using Timber for schools and Public buildings
- Finding ways to Incentivize or encourage using Mass timber technology that doesn't require finances - example adding a floor or adding extra units

The Committee thanked Nicole for her presentation

Energy Coach – Possible ARPA Proposal from Climate is Everybody’s Business and Climate Action Brookline

David Gladstone – Will have an Update of the USGA next month.

David Gladstone Introduced Susan Martin

- Made a presentation Climate Action Brookline submitting for ARPA funding for an Energy Coach for small business and non-profits with loans, grants, in kind assistance and counseling programs.

Looked at Newton’s Energy Coach and thought we could apply it here in Brookline for small businesses.

- Lowering energy costs for business
- Reduce waste reduce air pollution
- Engage and educate around sustainable green practices
- Energy incentives/Mass Save
- Getting the word out

One-year project – around 50,000 to pay for Part time project manager maybe up to 5 Project Manager’s

- 3 months to get program in place
- Goal make changes to 50-70 out of the approximate 500 small business in Town.

Werner Lohe thanked Susan for the presentation.

Committee Comments

- Reach out to Meredith Mooney
- Need Volunteers
- Need a Knowledge base Project Manager

The SBCAC Committee will be supportive of this.

Werner asked if anyone had any more questions.

Don Weitzman moved to adjourn

Alan Leviton seconded.

The meeting was adjourned 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: November 22, 2021

