



Town of Brookline

Massachusetts

**Department of Planning and
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Alison Steinfeld
Director

To: The Select Board

From: Zoe Lynn, Sustainability Program Administrator

Date: July 9, 2019

Re: Recommendations for climate action, as well as integrated and coordinated sustainability strategy

I look forward to meeting with the Select Board to provide you with some background information and recommendations for moving forward following the Select Board's first biannual Sustainability & Climate Action Summit. The recommendations are essential for implementing Brookline's Climate Action Plan, adopted by the Select Board as recommended by its Climate Action Committee. By adopting these recommendations, we hope to harness the expertise, energy and commitment that exist in Brookline to meet our zero climate-emissions goal by 2050, while also better integrating and coordinating sustainability strategy and planning for meaningful outcomes.

Zero emissions in Brookline by 2050 is an extraordinarily challenging goal that cannot be achieved by any one approach. Therefore, it is critical that we utilize Brookline's strengths, while also improving our current sustainability processes.

Combined with the Summit on June 5, 2019, I have spent nearly four months on focused listening to Brookline stakeholders. I have prepared these recommendations to reflect what I have heard, consolidated and merged with my professional judgement, and organized into **four areas that represent sources of greenhouse gas emissions** (generally labeled as: **buildings**, **transportation**, **"the biosphere,"** and **waste**), and an additional recommendation that represents some process and communication improvements.

As part of the recommended process changes, we are hoping to encourage use of the community-staff collaborative Summit and a new "working team" method for (sustainability/climate) warrant articles, to more effectively integrate planning and address staff and financial resource limitations. This is an important part of these recommendations, as our collective, community-staff sustainability process can be significantly improved to better serve Brookline stakeholders and capitalize on our staff capital. It is my hope that the Select Board will support these recommendations today, as the first of many "next steps" in growing Brookline's Sustainability Office, initiatives and meaningful outcomes.

While fostering and embracing social diversity, inclusive and integrated planning, innovation and collaboration – all necessary to achieve our climate goal – I believe it is essential to take this next, unified, step in developing this foundational direction.

At this time I am not requesting a detailed discussion of each line item in the PowerPoint, as we will bring initiatives forward in the future, as appropriate, for your approval. However, I am looking for your initial feedback, and an 'affirmative nod' on the overall direction so I can move forward in my responsibilities. Thank you for your attention and comments.

Post-Summit
“First-Step”
Recommendations

BUILDINGS & ENERGY ('THE GRID')

Advance Brookline Green Electricity (Community Choice Aggregation) Program	SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM
Develop and implement a sustainable <u>public buildings</u> policy and processes , using one of <u>ILFI</u> 's standards (https://living-future.org/) (<u>I</u> nternational <u>L</u> iving <u>F</u> uture <u>I</u> nstitute: an international leadership standard for " <i>ecologically restorative, socially just, culturally rich</i> " and climate-neutral buildings)	SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM
Strategically develop, coordinate and foster deployment of Town/community renewable energy systems (considering public, private, community and other systems and partnerships)	SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM
Develop and coordinate commercial and residential sustainable building initiatives (in Brookline, and/or in collaboration with regional stakeholders)	SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM
Budget for and implement [May 2019] WA 24 (purchase of <u>R</u> enewable <u>E</u> nergy <u>C</u> ertificates (RECs) for Town electricity supply)	STAFF TEAM

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

<p>Integrate, build for and develop systems and infrastructure that encourage, foster and achieve significantly more people-powered (e.g. foot, bike), 'green' micro-powered (e.g. scooters, e-bikes), and shared transportation (e.g. public, rideshare) trips, with integrated planning for electric vehicles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Advance the Beacon St. Bridle Path2. Develop sustainable transportation goal (e.g. % all trips)3. Use community feedback/engagement and data/science-informed processes to achieve climate, health and equity-focused outcomes4. Integrate design, infrastructure and education to build supportive culture5. Use inclusive and integrative planning for social diversity needs (e.g. children, seniors, people with disabilities, low and moderate income households, business owners, employees...) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Among other elements, brought forward as part of this initiative)	SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM
Implement [May 2019] WA 23 (electrification of Town's fleet and motorized equipment with long-term vehicle/transportation policy development)	STAFF TEAM
Develop process to address gas leaks	Led by Mel Kleckner

CONSUMPTION & WASTE

<p>Develop and plan for “zero waste” with creation of <u>comprehensive</u> “bridge” strategy</p> <p>The meaning of “zero waste” varies by municipality/organization, including definitions of near-zero waste or actual zero waste</p>	SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM
<p>Develop coordinated composting/food waste and sustainable food/community agriculture initiative with Town-School-Green Teams-community partnership</p>	SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM

GREEN SPACES+

Develop **urban forestry master plan for climate resiliency and mitigation**

Led by Erin Gallentine, potentially as part of MVP grant application

and

Potentially supported by SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM

Integrate...

- **ILFI standards (e.g. Living Building Challenge, Living Community Challenge)**
- To-be-determined **sustainable transportation goal** (*purple slide*)
- **Complete Streets**
- Town's **Open Space Plan**
- Town's **Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Action Plan**
- (Others, as relevant)

STAFF TEAM

and

Supported by SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM

... into **feasibility, consulting, CIP** and other appropriate **processes**

OPERATIONS, PROCESSES & COMMUNICATIONS

<p>Build Summit and Working Team process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop collaborative, integrative, iterative/agile process for action and planning 2. Use collaborative Summit and Working Team process for sustainability warrant articles, when possible, to effectively integrate planning, capitalize on Brookline's strengths, and recognize staff/financial limitations 3. Foster, embrace and appreciate social diversity, inclusive and integrated planning, innovation and collaboration... all necessary to achieve our goals 4. Invite School Committee to co-sponsor and co-participate with Select Board in next Summit 	(ALL)
<p>Manage and build Town Sustainability Office (need to develop office systems)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and budget for f.t. sustainability staff (consider cross-dept. needs, as well as other options to meet this demand) • Address related staffing items (e.g. CCA, Green Communities staffing needs) 	STAFF TEAM
<p>Strengthen the impact of the Select Board's Climate Action Committee (SBCAC) by including SBCAC members as voting members on all relevant boards, commissions and committees in Town government</p>	STAFF TEAM; SBCAC; SB
<p>Design and launch integrated/coordinated education <u>and</u> communication strategy (with brand and infrastructure) in Town-Library-School-community partnership</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leverage Brookline's Senior Center, Libraries, Adult & Community Education, Recreation Dept., engaged teachers and students, Green Teams, and Safe Routes to School task force to advance these recommendations and foster the cultural change necessary for Brookline's climate goals 2. Foster student involvement with Working Team-teacher partnerships for applied learning, student engagement, and empowerment 3. Address diversity/inclusive outreach and engagement needs 	SUST. OFFICE WORKING TEAM