

Climate Change Council
Minutes
February 10, 2022

The meeting was held remotely, was recorded on GoToMeeting, and is available for viewing on Pepperell Community Media.

Members present: Renee D'Argento, Beth Faxon, Ken Hartlage, James Scarsdale, Jessica Veysey-Powell, Chuck Walkovich, Bob Cataldo, Sue Edwards

Absences: Jason Veysey

Guests: Rob Rand

Ken convened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Agenda:

1. Elections. Election of chair and clerk were tabled until March meeting because committee did not have full complement of members.
2. Approval of minutes from prior meetings. None received to approve.
3. New Business.
 - a. Inclusionary zoning bylaw
 - i. The Planning Board released for review a draft inclusionary zoning bylaw, the purpose of which is to increase affordable housing in Pepperell.
 - ii. Renee noted that based on Pepperell's average growth rate, and the schedule for creating affordable housing under the bylaw, we would not get to 10% affordable housing until 2048. Renee expressed concern over the slow rate and proposed that all developments over 4 units be subject to a 25% affordable housing quota, which would achieve 10% affordable housing by 2040.
 - iii. Bob suggested we set an affordable housing target by a certain date and adjust the bylaw to meet that target.
 - iv. Ken invited the committee to review the draft bylaw and send comments to Renee and him.
 - b. AROD
 - i. Chuck provided a brief description of status, including feedback from the civic engagement night. Two public hearings will be held and the Planning Board is still targeting Spring town meeting for approval.
 - ii. Ken noted that an adaptive reuse that involved a renovation of an existing building or construction of a new one, was an opportunity to install heat pumps and other measures to improve the building's HERS rating and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - iii. Renee suggested the bylaw require the planting of native trees and to retain mature trees on site, and to evaluate which traffic impacts would trigger permit denial.
 - iv. Jim suggested EV charging station be included for parking

- v. Sue suggested bike racks be added on site. Sue further supported adaptive reuse in principle because it helps keeps people in the community for their products and services, reducing transportation emissions.
 - vi. Jessica said that we should support development in places that encourage walking and biking.
- 4. Project Updates
 - a. Community Solar
 - i. Two proposals received in response to our RFQ, which are being evaluated.
 - b. Municipal Aggregation
 - i. Presentation for public outreach is ready to go. Ken and Renee to schedule several events.
 - c. Outreach
 - i. Sue encouraged the CCC members to send contacts for our outreach efforts within next five days.
 - ii. Sue attended the MassEnergize community of users meeting, which had 30 participants working to get their communities engaged in making a difference on climate change now before it's too late. Sue was very encouraged, looking forward to launching on own site as our communications platform.
 - iii. Sue discussed the need for a handout focused on how each person can make a difference. Sue asked for ideas from the group.
 - iv. Chuck suggested we do an event at the library on our activities in advance of town meeting.
- 5. Other Business
 - a. Tree City USA program
 - i. Beth has arranged for Matt Cahill of DCR to talk to us about the program on Mar. 10.
 - b. Carbon Sequestration/Storage
 - i. Ken said the state is looking at means to achieve no net loss of forest land, including tax incentives for landowners with more than 10 acres of land, tentatively called Chapter 61C. Ken will update as plans progress.
 - c. Building stretch code
 - i. Ken advised that DOER has issued a straw proposal for a new base code, stretch code and opt-in stretch code. Ken will provide updates as feedback is collected and the proposal is updated.
 - d. Increasing scope and pace of projects
 - i. In order to take on more work in a shorter timeframe, the committee voted unanimously to recommend the Select Board hire a climate change director (7-0-1; Faxon abstained)]
- 6. Adjournment.
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 by unanimous vote (7-0-1; Faxon abstained)].