

**Climate Change Committee
Minutes
May 12, 2022**

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

Members present: Renee D'Argento, Ken Hartlage, James Scarsdale, Jessica Veysey-Powell, Bob Cataldo

Absences: Jason Veysey, Beth Faxon, Sue Edwards

Ken convened the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from prior meetings.
 - a. March 11 minutes. Renee moved to approve; Jessica seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Community Solar Update.
 - a. The consultant has provided a draft conceptual design for installing solar at the landfill (attached), on which they're going to base their financial analysis. They're starting to prepare the financial analysis, which will look at costs, benefits, and NPV of three different business models (developer-owned, Town-owned, and special purpose entity-owned), considering Town, developer, and subscriber perspectives.

3. Community Outreach
 - a. GreenPepperell.org website is up and running. Site includes actions the community can do to have positive impacts on climate change and sustainability. Next step is to make the site more interactive so that when residents sign up to an action it gets tracked. We are also hoping to engage a summer intern to help with site buildout and social media activities to make the public aware of the site and actions.

4. Tree Retention
 - a. Jessica shared our latest thoughts on tree retention policies, focusing "incentives" to encourage the preservation of trees already in place, and "fees" to cover the cost of replacing trees removed as part of a development project. Fees would go into a tree fund to purchase and plant trees on public or private land. A tree committee with a tree warden would oversee the program.

5. Municipal Aggregation

- a. The program was approved at town meeting. Peregrine Energy provided a contract, which is under review with town council.

6. Other Business

a. Climate Emergency Declaration at Town Meeting

- i. The citizen's petition was passed, although there was significant opposition. The committee discussed the implications of the resolution and how it impacts CCC's work. It represents no major change to our work but rather helps to emphasize the need for more attention to important issues, such as building efficiency and emissions.

b. Net-Zero Plan for Town

- i. The CCC will aim to complete a decarbonization plan by year end. NMCOG is completing a GHG inventory for the town, which will provide a baseline for where we are today and where we need to get to.

c. Mixed-used Overlay District

- i. The group discussed Ken's initial comments on the MUOD, which focused on protecting land adjacent to the Nashua and Nissitissit Rivers, ideally purchasing that land for conservation. The group agreed that if such land is to be included within the MUOD additional conditions must be applied to ensure the natural resources are protected. The groups also agreed that we need to work with the Town Planner to ensure climate change considerations are incorporated into the Planning Board's work.

7. Adjournment

- a. Jim moved to adjourn. Renee seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.