

**Climate Change Council
Minutes
September 9, 2021, 7:00 pm**

The meeting was held remotely and was recorded on GoToMeeting and is available for viewing on Pepperell Community Media at <https://pepperell.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=3eed22f5-bcf7-48e5-95b3-ea2a6e92ee88&nav=programs%2FClimate%20Change%20Council&volume=.65>

Members present: Bob Cataldo, Susan Edwards, Beth Faxon, Ken Hartlage, James Scarsdale, Jason Veysey, Jessica Veysey-Powell, Chuck Walkovich.

Absences: Renee D'Argento

Guests: Tony Beattie, Quinton Cutler

Chair Hartlage convened the meeting and began by asking Sue and Chuck to report on the update on communications outreach for Dark Skies.

Sue reported that she and Chuck had met several times, and have conceived of a *family-friendly educational event outside the Pepperell Library on October 03, 11AM-1PM, about energy-efficient, earth-friendly outdoor lighting. The library approved the event. Chuck will be contacting local businesses and contractors to participate, and Mass Saves. Andrew was ok with everything.*

*Below is an excerpt from an outreach planning document Sue read from describing the event. (*Note, Sue will put the outreach planning docs and draft Dark Sky mailer insert copy on our shared server space).*

Dark Sky Oct.30 Event Presenters:

- Energy efficient lighting electricians
- Contractors and Developers
- Landscapers
- Hardware store manager
- International Dark Sky Association volunteers, Boy and Girl Scouts

Demonstration tables:

- Ideal lighting shields
- Library Resources Table focused on Nocturnal creatures and pollinators
- Climate Change Council

Benefits for business vendors:

- A “show and tell” table top to educate potential customers
- An easy way to meet residents from Pepperell

Benefits for homeowners:

- Find out what kind of exterior lighting is most effective, earth-friendly, and efficient for both backyard and business properties
- Talk to local lighting professionals to get their advice
- Learn what Pepperell residents and town officials are doing to mitigate climate change

Chuck and Sue also conceptualized having three educational Zoom or live programs to raise interest and awareness of the importance of sensible outdoor lighting, such as Nocturnal Critters, and Night Time Photography.

Chuck suggested we also hold a contest, to start in the fall and end in the spring to show the improvements people have made their outdoor lighting, and also an informational insert in a town-wide mailing such as a sewer bill.

Sue mentioned a conversation with Ken for the CCC to have an easy-to-get to web presence, and marketing communications with a QR code on them.

Library has invited the CCC to provide a list of resources to augment its educational efforts. Give Library Director Deb Spratt your ideas, or send you book ideas to Sue.

Jessica, requested that when Mass Saves comes to the event that we ask them bring lightbulbs in the part of the lighting spectrum we are looking for that's friendly for wildlife and people.

Bob Cataldo asked if we will have anything for dark skies for the Fall Festival coming up.

Jessica has been thinking about the web site, and we should be providing links to those resources., for example, engaging radio programs about trees and climate change

Ken said we are looking for someone with the right web skills to build a good website and that we would start looking at the outline and architecture. We would also start to look for funding.

Jim Scarsdale, set up a skeleton for doing the carbon footprint. Jim has access to the town web site and said we could put documents on the town web site.

There was discussion about getting a URL for a CCC web site, and should the web site reflect the regional work.

Tony would like student involved in our efforts.

Jessica mentioned the idea of involving children to plant trees. What if kids were planting acorns?

Tony mentioned that he had gone to the high school and has contacts he could hand off to us.

Ken, we want to be thinking about how to educate and campaign for change if we want to hit our 2050 targets of zero emissions.

Bob and Jason will have a booth for the fall festival. We want to be there to answer people's questions.

Jason reported briefly on solar siting in Pepperell. Two next steps; go up to the capped landfill and see where the solar might be located, and also look at the adjacent land. Jason talked about possible funding models. (Sue: add this info! minute 45:11). Next step is to do some high level analysis, with the view of being able to bring this to the select board.

Quinton volunteered to be of assistance to Jason and Bob.

Tony recommended using the tour of the landfill as a PR opportunity.

Ken suggests we allow ourselves a little more time to vet this solar siting work and then promote.

Chuck suggested we have the lighting at the library corrected.

Ken asked that we make a motion to move Municipal Aggregation presentation out of this committee so we can present it to the Select Board. What we'd be seeking from the selectboard at that time is approval of the recommendations in the presentation. A motion was made by Chuck to vote to move the Municipal Aggregation presentation out of this committee for a presentation at a future selectboard meeting, Beth Faxon second. No discussion. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hartlage then asked whether any additional business needed to be discussed.

Motion to adjourn: Jessica Veysey-Powell; seconded by Chuck Walkovich. Voted 8-0 to adjourn at 8:07 pm.