

# Climate Change Council Minutes

2021-Oct-14, 7:00 pm

## Introduction

Meeting was held via GoToMeeting. The recorded link is:  
[<https://pepperell.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=2fec4687-5f2f-457b-9ad1-422c9455967c&nav=search%2Fclimate%20change>]

**Member attendees:** Bob Cataldo, Susan Edwards, Beth Faxon, Ken Hartlage, James Scarsdale, Jason Veysey, Jessica Veysey-Powell, Chuck Walkovich

**Members absent:** Renee D'Argento

**Guest attendees:** None

## Topics Discussed

### 1. Approval of Minutes from prior meetings - Jessica

June 2 and Sept 9 Minutes - Jessica moved to approve, Chuck seconded. Carried 7-0

### 2. Pepperell CPA (Community Preservation Act) - Chuck Walkovich

Chuck presented slides that will also be available on the town website. Mark Matthews is the CPA champion, working with CPA and informing all town meetings.

Recommendation strongly recommended by Master Plan Committee.

Hits key points from Master Plan: rural feel, open space, historical roots, affordable housing

Impressive numbers for CPA shown in slides - 5800 grants made, 53% of municipalities, 65% of residents, \$2Billion+ raised, etc. (see slides)

Affordable housing - State Req: 10%, Pepperell: around 3%

Must be approved by Town Meeting. State matches money that the town raises. For example, 1% assessment would be on average \$35/year, with exceptions for seniors.

**Step One:** Either *Town Warrant voted at Town Meeting* or *Collect Signatures of 5% of registered signatures*. Proposed for Fall Town Meeting

**Step Two:** Vote on CPA at next scheduled municipal or state election.

Opens the pathway to other grants

**Website:** <https://www.communitypreservation.org>

Ken - Funds collected will go into discretionary account to be voted on by the Town.

Examples: Recreation, purchase of affordable housing

**Civic Engagement night - Thursday, Oct 21:** CPA to be presented by Mark Matthews (see Town Calendar)

Jason: Will Select Board or Committees make disbursement recommendations?

Chuck: Committees

Ken asked whether committees though there was an application for CCC?

Jessica: wetland soils, trees, land conversation

Chuck: Affordable Housing - to avoid forced 40B

**Endorsement:** CCC could endorse the *Warrant Article* once it has been prepared. It has been suggested that there will be an ad-hoc meeting to vote pro or con on whether to support the warrant article. Chuck has taken the action item to check on Warrant Article status.

### 3. Dark Sky - Sue

Not much traction from landscapers, construction companies, etc. Scrapping the Oct 30.

Working on a flyer. May or may not have a chance to publish a flyer by end of year. Andrew was in favor, but Ken Kalinowsky (Water Dept) has initially declined adding a flyer to the *water bill*.

Does the CCC want to further address that?

Jessica mentioned that a large part of the town population does NOT receive a water bill. (Ken: 3200 households have town water).

Beth also questioned whether this was advisable [missed some of this????].

Bob mentioned that at the Fall Fair, many people were not aware of the CCC's existence. Maybe advertise at the library?

Jim confirmed that at the Community Solar discussion, there were also Pepperell residents who were not aware of the committee.

Ken, Chuck, Sue - will discuss next steps with Ken Kalinowsky.

### 4. CCC website has been secured: [SustainablePepperell.com](http://SustainablePepperell.com)

A volunteer who has worked on many websites is going to help put the site together.

[Jim (after meeting) - if we have not already purchased the domain, I would suggest *SustainablePepperell.org* - I do not think you have to be a formal organization to own a .org domain. The connotation (at least in my mind) is that .org is non-profit, vs .com which is commercial.]

### 5. Advertising the committee

Bob - is there anything we can do at Town Meeting, for instance, to better advertise the group.

Maybe advertise at the library?

Ken asked, what would we be permitted to advertise at Town Meeting? Assuming the website is up and running in time, we could display a flyer advertising the CCC and website on the table at Town Meeting.

Sue suggested presenting at the *Civic Engagement night*.

## 6. Municipal Aggregation presentation to Select Board

To be presented at the October 25 meeting. Similar steps to CPA: (1) ask Town to approve *investigation* by the committee, (2) engage with energy consultant, (3) follow-up with Town vote.

## 7. Community Solar

The town has submitted a grant application (on behalf of the Climate Change Council) to hire a consultant to work on the Community Solar project.

## 8. OSRD and Design Recommendations from NMCOG

Chuck mentioned that NMCOG is in flux. Jessica - what is the path forward?  
Chuck - NMCOG will make a draft and then distribute to committees.

## Chat Discussions:

Jason: Missed deadline (Oct 7) for getting a warrant article in front of Town Meeting.

**Motion to adjourn:** Jessica    **Second:** Bob. Voted 7-0 in favor of adjourning at 8:05 pm.