

Minutes for the Net Zero Planning Committee Meeting on May 26, 2021 at 8 AM

Virtual Meeting Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law

Present: Roy Harvey, Audrey Kalmus, Sue Klem, Staci Montori, and Lynne Smith

Also Present: Jennifer Glass, liaison to Select Board

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Roy Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2021. The motion was seconded by Audrey Kalmus and approved unanimously via roll call vote: Harvey, aye; Kalmus, aye; Klem, aye; Montori, aye; Smith, aye.

Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Kalmus and approved unanimously via roll call vote: Harvey, aye; Kalmus, aye; Klem, aye; Montori, aye; Smith, aye.

Kalmus made a motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2021. The motion was seconded by Smith and approved unanimously via roll call vote: Harvey, aye; Kalmus, aye; Klem, aye; Montori, aye; Smith, aye.

Next Meeting: We agreed to meet at least twice in June, because, despite the added convenience of meeting by zoom, it will probably be hard to find times for all to get together in July and August.

Action Items for our Next Meeting:

Sue-develop a spreadsheet depicting what nearby towns have done for climate plans, sustainability staff, etc.

Audrey (in a previous meeting)-investigate funding possibilities, including MAPC, state's MVP program, Green Communities, Sen. Barrett's and Rep. Stanley's offices, etc. with timelines for writing proposals and obtain and spend money.

Roy-record some initial thoughts on scope and stakeholder groups for the Net Zero Plan.

All-review and discuss the name of our committee so that it reflects the scope of work.

Summary of Actions Taken by Nearby Towns Related to Writing Climate Plans: The group discussed the climate plans of Concord, Weston, Belmont, Arlington, Carlisle, Natick, Bedford, and Lexington. There were additional reports about phone conversations with sustainability directors or volunteers in Concord, Weston, Belmont, Arlington, and Carlisle. Points made by most of the towns were:

- Volunteer efforts to get towns to commit to addressing climate change need to have leverage, such as getting a vote by the Select Board or Town Meeting on a climate change resolution.
- It was recommended that Town staff, consultants, or MAPC staff supported by funding, are needed to complete a climate plan.
- Towns focused on energy efficiency, energy efficient heating/cooling, transportation, and clean electricity to address climate change. Energy efficiency was considered most important, along with electrifying everything.
- Towns tried to follow the state Net Zero by 2050 Roadmap guidelines, if plans were done recently.
- MAPC has a good reputation for helping towns pull their community together to reach agreement on goals and a timeline and writing an effective climate plan. The process requires a significant time commitment by a staff member.
- As towns create a climate plan, they must get buy-in from all constituencies using an inclusive process.
- The climate plan should have specific actionable goals.
- Soil and forest sequestration considerations and agricultural practices weren't addressed by most of the towns as they were more densely populated. For the ones that did, it seemed to be a new field of exploration.

Land Use Meeting on May 12-Based on work being done in Lincoln to address climate change as described at our recent meeting with representatives of Land Use organizations, Staci spoke about the possibility of developing working groups with these and other Town land-based organizations. Lynne suggested a “coordinated umbrella concept”. Organizations that attended the May 12 meeting were the Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Garden Club, Codman Farm, and Mothers Out Front. There was a sense that we would get more interest in our net zero planning work and more participation from the Town by including these land-based organizations.

Town Meeting Climate Change Citizen Petition: Jennifer mentioned the importance of the vote at Lincoln Town Meeting 2021 on the Climate Change Citizen Petition which had been written for Town Meeting 2020. It passed overwhelmingly, providing Town support for the subcommittee's work. The net zero planning comes directly from #4 of the motion for the Climate Change Citizen Petition:

“That the Town will vote to adopt a citizen sponsored resolution in support of:...

4. Directing Town departments, boards, and committees to collaborate on and otherwise take expeditious action to adopt and implement appropriate measures to reduce the carbon footprint in Lincoln to the extent reasonably possible, following Town Meeting approval if necessary and desirable.”

Future Possible Timeline for our Committee: The group discussed using the two June meetings to develop a roadmap for engaging the community in writing a climate plan and finding staff to help the town with sustainability planning. This could include reaching out to Town boards and committees next fall and anticipating the State of the Town meeting on November 6. It is important that we document what other towns have done regarding climate plans and

sustainability staff. Also, Lincoln could consider coordinating with other towns on the net zero stretch code that is being developed at the state level.

Adjournment: Lynne made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Roy and approved unanimously via roll call vote: Harvey, aye; Klem, aye; Montori, aye; Smith, aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 AM.

Submitted by Sue Klem