Town of Hingham

HINGHAM CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 25, 2026

PLACE: Online via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elliott Place, Jo-An Heileman, Lisa Hennessey, Gary Tondorf-Dick, Tom Morahan, Alyson Anderson, Patricia Burke, and Brad Moyer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Matt Curran, Doug Troyer, and Maria Zade

GUESTS: John Borger, Brenda Black, Brianna Bennett, and Paul Sprecher

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Opening and Call to Order: Brad Moyer called the remote meeting to order and read the required remote meeting and recording notices, confirming the session was being recorded in compliance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. Brad noted the meeting is being held remotely pursuant to applicable temporary amendments to the Open Meeting Law.

Agenda Item 1: Warrant Article Process and Advisory Committee Feedback

Summary: Brad reviewed recent meetings with the Select Board and the Advisory Committee regarding the HCAC warrant article. The Select Board unanimously endorsed the warrant article. Advisory Committee suggested standard provisions for committee charters, including staggered membership, chair and vice chair elections, and only Hingham residents being able to vote. Advisory Committee's recommended motion will be presented at Town Meeting, though the article as submitted remains the article on the warrant.

Key points discussed:

- Voting membership: Advisory requested language clarifying that only Hingham residents may be voting members. The warrant article was revised to allow up to 13 voting members, and to specify that any non-resident member or designee is non-voting. Brad explained this preserves HMLP and School Committee designees while ensuring only residents vote.
- Staggered terms: Advisory requested staggered terms for appointees. Because some members are designees of other town bodies (and serve at those bodies' pleasure), staggered two-year terms apply primarily to Select Board and Moderator appointees. Initial staggering will assign some one-year and some two-year terms so reappointments occur annually for portions of the slate.
- Chair and Vice Chair elections: Advisory requested election timing be included; language was

added requiring elections at least once within any two-year period, preserving the Commission's ability to remove officers by motion between elections.

Action/Follow-up: Tom Morahan asked whether HMLP should discuss designation at an HMLP meeting; Brenda reported she had already spoken with Laura Burns who understands the language and hopes Tom will remain the designee. Brad will circulate the final approved Advisory comment that Brenda shepherded through Advisory.

Agenda Item 2: Ratification of the Town Report

Summary: Brad asked the Commission to ratify submission of the town report (previously circulated). He noted only minor edits were received (correction of an appointee listing). A motion to ratify was seconded and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Agenda Item 3: Climate Leaders Follow-Up — Decarbonization Roadmap (DOER Grant)

Summary: Patricia Burke reported that Hingham received the DOER grant for technical assistance to develop the decarbonization roadmap. The town is paired with consultant ICF, who currently has access to municipal data in MEI and the Climate Action Plan. ICF will identify gaps and conduct site visits for municipal buildings; much of the information gathering and site visits are planned for after Town Meeting and, for schools, during summer months.

Key points discussed:

- ICF will review municipal building data (MEI baseline), the Climate Action Plan, and prior assessments (e.g., Central Fire Station).
- Site visits and deeper data collection will occur after Town Meeting to avoid conflicts with departmental Town Meeting preparations; school site visits are expected to be easier in summer.
- Brenda asked whether Nancy McDonald and George Danis (working on municipal building reviews) were aware or coordinating; Patricia said she had not yet looped them in but will follow up to avoid duplication and to share findings where helpful.

Action/Follow-up: Patricia will coordinate with ICF and follow up with other staff (Nancy McDonald, George Danis) to align efforts and avoid duplication.

Agenda Item 4: ZEV First Policy and Planning for Carbon Update (Broader Goals Discussion)

Summary: Brad combined discussion of the ZEV-first policy and the planned carbon update into a broader conversation about setting actionable goals for the remainder of the year and into next year. He proposed focusing on implementing specific, time-bound goals drawn from the Climate Action Plan and assigning Commission liaisons to municipal entities (HMLP, Town administration, School Committee) to support goal-setting and tracking.

Key points discussed:

- Approach: Ask HMLP, Town administration, and School Committee to identify achievable goals for this year (and, where possible, next year) based on the Climate Action Plan's recommendations. HCAC would act as a reporting and support body to help these entities meet their goals.
- Liaisons and responsibilities:
  - HMLP: Brianna and Tom to work on actionable items related to electricity supply.
  - Town administration: Patricia to coordinate with department heads and facilitate municipal building goals.
  - School Committee: HCAC to identify a liaison to work with the schools on their plan items.
- Inventory and credit: Brad emphasized inventorying and taking credit for goals already accomplished as part of the update process.
- Carbon update cadence: The Commission committed to a carbon update on a three-year basis; Brad suggested a five-year cadence for a full Climate Action Plan update, with interim updates to reflect completed goals and lessons learned.

Action/Follow-up:

- Commission members to volunteer as liaisons for the six plan contours (Electricity supply, Buildings, Transport, Waste, Community, Natural Resources) and to draft actionable goals for municipal bodies.
- Patricia, Brianna, and Brad to coordinate next steps and timelines; site visits and data collection by ICF to proceed after Town Meeting.

Additional Notes and Discussion Items

- HMLP designee residency: Brad reiterated that current HMLP designee Tom Morahan is not a Hingham resident; the warrant language allows HMLP to designate a resident if they wish a voting member. Tom indicated he would check with the HMLP board if they want to discuss designation.
- Meeting logistics: Brad offered to share screenshots or guidance to help members with Zoom view settings as needed.

The next meeting was set for February 11, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 9pm.