



MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 6, 2022

PLACE: Remote meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Moyer (Chair), Thomas Morahan, Elliott Place, Beth Porter, Kathy Reardon, and Maria Zade

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carlos DaSilva, Gary Tondorf-Dick, Nancy Wiley, Tom Roby and Shannon Kacherovich

GUESTS: Tanya Bodell, Virginia (Ginny) LeClair, Brianna Bennett, Paul Sprecher, Brenda Black, and Judeth Van Hamm

ATTACHMENTS: Energyzt Meeting #2: GHG Inventory and Outreach

The Chair called the duly noticed meeting to order at 7:10pm and presented the Virtual Open Meeting Protocol and Procedures as outlined in the Governor's Chapter 20 Pandemic Directive of 2021. Brad further explained that in order to provide an opportunity for all to provide input, participants should raise their hand to indicate a desire to speak. Once the participant is recognized by the Chair, s/he should keep the remarks to agenda, and be succinct and respectful. If the participant does not, s/he will receive a warning. If the participant continues to violate the norms, s/he will not be recognized to speak by the Chair and may be muted for the remainder of the meeting.

Abode presentation on newly updated energy saving incentives offered by HMLP

Brad turned to the first agenda item regarding the Abode presentation on newly updated energy savings initiatives offered by HMLP, and indicated that this agenda item will be postponed while HMLP continues to work on updating its incentives. Before moving to the second agenda item, Elliott Place introduced Judeth Van Hamm, whom he had invited to attend. Judeth explained her role with Sustainable South Shore and the effort to move the South Shore to sustainable clean energy quickly. Judeth is working on getting all South Shore communities to use renewable energy, and also is advocating for solar renewable personal transit, noting that the intention is for such transportation to be fully paid with private funds with 5% of any proceeds going back to the local community.

Continued discussions with Energyzt on climate planning efforts, including review of other municipal climate action plans and public engagement planning, among other items

Brad introduced Tanya from Energyzt to begin the presentation. (Please see the attachment for a copy of the presentation.) Tonight's presentation focused on public outreach, initial data insights, greenhouse gas inventory tools, and next steps. Tanya noted that John Malloy was unable to attend, and so Tanya covered the data insights portion. Tanya noted that Energyzt will make several



recommendations regarding the inventory tools and would ask for a Committee vote at its next meeting.

Public Outreach (Ginny LeClair)

- Ginny thanked the Committee for its interest and work so far. Highly engaged which is great to see.
- Ginny reviewed the project timeline. Discussed progress to date and upcoming activities. Desire to have a survey before Eco Fest.
- Planning for the first public meeting between May 11 and 18, with the first meeting to happen around mid-June, and then a second public meeting in October. Then presentations on the plan would be in November / December.
- Public engagement is very important to this plan. Want transparency. Include developers, houses of worship, landlords, citizen groups, etc.
- Ginny described the three different types of public outreach we would use:
 - Traditional Media (press, newspaper, Harbor Media)
 - Social Media
 - Community Groups
- Community Leaders. Want to engage the community leaders. Ginny noted the great work the Committee did on the Sustainability Director advocacy and engagement. Each group will have a different list of questions. (E.g., DPW would have different interests than the Schools.) Will interview these leaders and incorporate feedback.
- Enablers/Diverters. Want full perspective. Public surveys are a great way to reach out and hear from those who have something to say but might not be able to make a meeting. Ginny recalled seeing the Task Force's posts when pursuing the warrant article.
- Community engagement plan must be strategic and iterative. Objectives and the targeted audience must be clearly defined. Identifying and planning events, like Eco Fest, are very important.
- Next Steps: work with the Community Engagement Working Group on drafting an outreach / communication plan, which would identify the elements described above.

Brad requested that the reference to the Working Groups as "committees" in the presentation be changed to "Working Groups" as the reference to "committee" has Open Meeting Law implications that aren't present with how the Working Groups have been constructed.

Elliott asked a question regarding Open Meeting Law and what the limitations are with making public statements about the work of the Committee. Brad responded that members can speak to public deliberations that had occurred but cannot represent the Committee in deliberations that had not yet



occurred and been voted on by the Committee. Tanya added that is why Committee approval of a communication plan is key.

Initial Data Insights (Tanya Bodell)

- Energyzt was able to get data on electricity, home heating, and transportation, but not yet waste. Surprised at how much oil use for home heating in Hingham. Transportation not as much of a cluster for greenhouse gas emission in Hingham as anticipated. Will look to Working Groups to focus on each of these areas and develop a list of approaches for decarbonization.
- Hingham Municipal Lighting Plant (HMLP): decarbonizing faster than the rest of Massachusetts. That is because HMLP has made a concerted effort.
- Hingham Electrical Load: Demand has decreased by 5% since 2011, which can be explained partially due to energy efficiency measures. It is impressive that Hingham has been able to achieve this.
- HMLP Carbon Reduction: While purchases of the system power made by HMLP are not all carbon free, HMLP had purchased renewable energy credits to offset. As of 2021, more than half of HMLP's energy sources are carbon free. HMLP has been over-purchasing recs and then selling them at a higher cost to fund green initiatives.
- Home Heating: Hingham has ~8K homes. Hot water home heating is over 50%, next followed by forced air ducts. More than half of the Hingham homes are oil fired. Gas is next. Only 108 homes are electric. Tanya had asked the Committee members for reactions.
 - Brianna Bennett had indicated that HMLP thought 90% of homes in Hingham were heated using natural gas. Because more than half were oil, HMLP had to change its incentive plans.
 - Brad responded that he thought it not all that surprising because he had followed natural gas development in the Town and noted that gas lines did not run through much of South Hingham or East Hingham. Tanya says this is good news because oil is much more carbon intensive. Thus, the opportunity is there to move to 100% electric.
- Social justice issues. Most >5000 square feet homes use gas. Houses <5000 square feet - half use oil. Maria Zade requested more detail information on the breakdown because many of those homes less than 5000 square feet aren't impoverished, so that breakdown isn't necessarily a social justice issue. This could be new versus old homes (assuming newer homes tend to be larger). Tanya indicated that they hadn't yet gone deeper on the data. These are just to hint at issues to come. Tanya noted that there are disparities due to different income levels that need to be recognized.
- Electric Vehicles (EVs): Hingham demographic is for early adopters. The numbers of non-EV vehicles registered in Hingham are 19,750, while EV electric plates are only 303. Energyzt will do more digging into this (plates versus what is being reported). Kathy noted that current supply chain issues may be impacting adoption of EVs. For example, Kathy attempted to buy



one but was stymied because of supply chain issues. Tanya noted that many of those who have EVs also have another large gas-guzzling vehicle.

- Waste: Tanya asked the Committee if waste tracking was of interest as part of the climate action plan. Maria indicated that she has a lot of data and can share that with Energyzt. Maria provided details as to how waste is handled in Hingham. Kathy noted that many may not connect climate change with what they throw in the trash. Making that connection in the plan would help to get greater compliance with what we try to do. Brianna then indicated that the Town is looking to purchase a trash compactor, and so funds could be put into reducing waste rather than another compactor. Brad asked how town climate action plans typically account for activity that happens outside of a town border—if trash is burned outside of Hingham, how do we account for that (just like we account for transportation that comes through Hingham but doesn't originate here)? Tanya recommended looking at the source for carbon emissions, and then account for carbon emitted in the Town. Ginny noted that private trash haulers come through Hingham. Hingham could regulate private trash haulers with a view to carbon reduction, and then also look at contract requirements. For example, contracts could require trash to be used as waste energy rather than just burned.
- Next Steps: Energyzt to work with Working Groups to brainstorm ideas for implementation paths. Email traffic is great, but also need to document and optimize the findings and communications, such as drafting memo documents. Tanya then went through the Working Group next steps / homework slide walking through each step.
 - Maria Zade recommended Matt Cahill of the DPW as a point person for these discussions.

GHG Inventory Tools (Ginny)

- Discussed the purpose of a GHG inventory—benchmarking Hingham's usage to similar communities, measuring and comparing energy usage. This benchmarking is a starting point; you need to know what your emissions are in order to know how to reduce them.
- Ginny noted that no standard definition of net zero yet, so we will need to create one for our plan.
- Ginny walked through tools available, such as MassEnergyInsight (MEI), Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), ICLEI/ClearPath, MAPC, and others
- CDP: goal is to make carbon reporting the norm and standard. The tool is free and voluntary to report; can report publicly or privately. Benefit of disclosing is knowledge that all can leverage.
- MEI: benchmarking for all MA towns.
- Global Covenant of Mayors: another way to show communities leading by example. Over 170 cities have joined. Membership is free, and members must report annually. The annual reporting holds members accountable. First step is a pledge from town leadership to reduce



greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resiliency, and report. In three years must adopt plans and targets. Towns receive milestones and badges showing that they've obtained levels of engagement and progress.

- The climate action plan could recommend, for example, that Hingham join this organization.
- Energy Star Portfolio Manager. Mostly used by commercial buildings. Energyzt does not recommend it because it is a commercial tool and not as flexible for community-wide planning.
- EPA. Does offer municipal, community, and government modules. It is an interactive spreadsheet tool. Does not provide a deep dive or annual tracking and support. Energyzt does not recommend it.
- Excel. Somerville uses this. While possible to use if we have a system like Somerville, then great. If no current system, then Excel is challenging because there is no dedicated support, and Hingham would be creating an approach from whole cloth.
- Energyzt: seeks a recommendation from the Committee for which tool to use.

Brad asked whether we choose one tool or others can work together, and Ginny indicated that Energyzt recommends CDP. Beth noted that Green Communities requires MEI, to which Ginny responded that Hingham would continue to use MEI, but MEI is only municipal. CDP includes residential and commercial information. Brad asked whether data in MEI can easily be ported to CDP or if it is a manual exercise. Ginny noted that there is a way to port over information. Brad then asked whether CDP is used by other communities and has a good track record, and also whether CDP leads you down a path that predetermines certain things that would be decided by a climate action plan. Ginny noted that CDP is used by many other communities, and CDP gives a town many options and is not prescriptive. Brad requested a demo and noted that whatever tool we choose the Town will need to live with thereafter. Beth also mentioned that any future Sustainability Coordinator might be working with the tool selected by the Committee.

At this, Tanya summarized the information on the Data collection, survey, and public meeting slide and overall next steps. Energyzt then concluded its presentation.

Updates from the work of the various Working Groups created by the Committee

- Greenhouse Gas Reduction: nothing new to report this evening
- Energy Infrastructure: no new updates; Gary Tondorf-Dick, who is lead, is currently recovering from surgery but doing well
- Community and Regional Engagement: these groups have been very busy.
 - Elliott and Christin Eigemann from Hingham Net Zero as part of Green Week will be presenting to Hingham High School on April 12th along with Christin Eigemann.



- Maria then noted that Cleaner Greener Hingham is doing a Hingham clean-up on April 23rd for Earth Day. Maria indicated that she would send a sign-up sheet to the group.
- South Shore Eco Fest. April 29th at the Cohasset Commons. Chance to show what the CAPC is up to and to engage with community members. Posters, stickers, and raffle tickets for composters as prizes will be available. Ginny noted that bands will be performing and also Untold Brewery will have a beer garden.
- Other Events: Kathy asked if Taste of Hingham is happening, as that might present another opportunity. Maria indicated that, as she understands it, unfortunately Taste of Hingham is not happening this year as there were no organizers.
- Brad then mentioned that a new account for funding has been established so that community members can contribute to the work of the CAPC. Maria asked if there were any restrictions, and Brad indicated that there were no restrictions imposed at the time of setup.
- Residential Net Zero Working Group: nothing new to report.
- Grant Research Opportunities and Incentives Working Group: Maria indicated that she has been working with HMLP on getting more EV charging stations around town, but in preliminary stages of that.

Review of the previous meeting’s minutes

A few corrections were recommended relating to meeting attendees, the HMLP presentation on the EV charging stations, and attachment references. Brad then moved to approve the minutes, which Tom seconded. The minutes as corrected were then unanimously approved.

Discussion of possible agenda items for the next meeting and scheduling of that meeting

- Continual efforts with Energyzt
- Collective feedback on the climate action plans we reviewed
- GHG inventory tool

The next CAPC meeting is scheduled for 7pm, April 27, 2022, and this meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Moyer



ATTACHMENT

Energyst Meeting #2: GHG Inventory and Outreach