



MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 28, 2022

PLACE: Remote meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Moyer (Chair), Elliott Place, Beth Porter, Kathy Reardon, Nancy Wiley, Carlos DaSilva, Maria Zade, Alyson Anderson, and Bob Hidell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Morahan and Gary Tondorf-Dick

GUESTS: Tanya Bodell, Brenda Black, Joe Griffin, and Brianna Bennett. Also in attendance were John Borger, Paul Sprecher, and Beverly Vernon

ATTACHMENTS: Energyzt presentation on natural resources; Hingham CAPC Presentation to the Select Board

The Chair called the duly noticed meeting to order at 7:03pm and presented the Virtual Open Meeting Protocol and Procedures as outlined in the Governor’s Chapter 22 Pandemic Directive of 2022.

Recap of the September 20, 2022 Public Engagement Session

Brad began by noting that approximately 38 participants attended and remained through the entirety of the meeting. There was great discussion and feedback on the contours as presented by Energyzt. The session was a success, particularly considering the challenge of the last-minute cancellation of the in-person session and the need to use the Zoom session as the primary feedback mechanism as opposed to the supplemental session it was intended to be.

Elliott then shared that several attendees noted that it was the “usual suspects” who participated, and that possible detractors who we had hoped to be able to engage did not attend. Additional feedback indicated that the session was run very professionally, with kudos to Tanya and Energyzt, and is a model for engaging with the public.

In response, Brad noted that we discussed postponing the in-person session, and that perhaps in order to better interest those who may be in disagreement with the Committee’s work, we instead have a public session that will report out what is proposed to go into the CAP—give something more concrete to elicit reactions. Target for such a session would be early to mid-November or early December. Bob agreed with this approach. Kathy did as well but emphasized that we should discuss the plan components as preliminary and not set in stone.

Beth asked Tanya if it is natural to have those who might be against the CAPC’s work to come in at the end. Tanya indicated that this is often the case and noted that we haven’t had the hard discussions yet that focus on costs and cause behavioral changes, such as what we would recommend regarding residential use of oil and gas heat.



Kathy then raised, under the category of buildings, the extent to which we could use an application for a Building Department permit as a trigger to discuss options. Bob expressed concerns about legal complications since, so long as the homeowner is complying with the existing code, the building inspector cannot take a mandatory position. We should look to invite Michael Clancy of the Building Department to one our meetings to discuss.

Elliott then pivoted to the newly released updated version of the Stretch Code, and John Borger, who has reviewed the code, expressed the concern that it is not a solution as it doesn't address existing structures and their use of oil or gas. John suggested that a possibility is to engage the assessor's office as a means of updating their information systems as to what homeowners use for HVAC, and then also use that as an opportunity to distribute information at the time of in-home tax assessments.

Kathy agreed, and also suggested that we engage the Town department heads to familiarize them with our work and look for opportunities to have them get information out to the citizenry on carbon neutral options.

Energyzt Presentation and Discussion on Natural Resources

Tanya then led the discussion on Natural Resources. Tanya reviewed what progress the CAPC has made, how inspiring our work has been, and that we are in the final wrap up of the CAP contours. The goal would be to have a good draft of the plan by the end of October and to begin obtaining feedback in November.

Tanya shared the Energyzt slides on Natural Resources, first summarizing how natural resources can assist in decarbonization through acting as carbon sinks. Tanya also noted the sizable green spaces in Hingham (e.g., Wompatuck, World's End, etc.), farms in Hingham, and even the ocean / bay, all which can help act as carbon sinks. Tanya then outlined the various topics and led a discussion to collect feedback from the Committee members.

All feedback was collected and memorialized in the Energyzt Presentation on Natural Resources, which is appended to these minutes and forms a part thereof.

Finalizing Contours for Update to the Select Board

Brad next shared the proposed presentation compiled by Energyzt for reviewing the CAP contours with the Select Board. (See attachment Hingham CAPC_Presentation to Select Board_Contours.) While a date has not yet been set, the target is the week of October 10th and Art Robert had invited Tanya and Brad to a meeting the week of October 3rd to review. Brad walked through the presentation, reviewing the project plan, the outreach plan, the summarization of the contours (the same as presented to the Public Engagement Session on September 20th), and a discussion of the Inflation Reduction Act and the opportunities that may flow from it.



Brad also spent some time focusing on the outcomes from the CAP that could result in warrant article consideration for Town Meeting, such as: any fund requisitions, a Town-chartered body to oversee the enactment of the CAP, adopting a residential PACE Program, etc. Brad requested feedback on other suggestions, and Kathy raised pay-as-you-throw programs. Kathy also suggested that Brad inform the Committee of when the meeting with the Select Board would take place.

Discussion of Hingham Foster School and Sustainability Review

Brad raised to the Committee the possibility of reviewing the proposed rebuilding of the Foster School and voicing an opinion on the matter. Alyson noted that the School Building Committee (SBC) did not specifically engage the CAPC on it, but as noted in the FAQ page, had spoken with different citizens’ groups, and the CAPC has crossover membership with Hingham Net Zero. Furthermore, Alyson indicated that the SBC has made a concerted effort to incorporate carbon neutral designs, and Alyson would be happy to take any questions from the CAPC to the SBC to get some answers.

Kathy then asked whether there is any documentation that speaks to the summary of specific carbon emissions reductions efforts that are proposed for the Foster School. Any such document could greatly aid our review. John Borger noted that the SBC engaged a consultant to advise and monitor on this, and the consultant produced a comprehensive LEED review as a result. Alyson indicated that she would try to obtain this for the Committee.

Brad noted that the SBC is extremely busy in October with one month to go before the vote, and wouldn’t want to make requests of the group without an intention to review and voice an opinion. Also, reviewing the information in any serious way to offer a view is a fair amount of work. Carlos agreed, and indicated that he believes it worthwhile to do the work and to prepare to offer a view on Foster School. Maria agreed, believing this Committee should offer a view and possibly an endorsement. Kathy also agreed, but wants to be clear that any view from the Committee should be limited to the green / carbon neutral components of the proposed building and not the project as a whole so as not to overstep our role.

Other Business

None

Working Group Updates

None

Approval of Minutes



Approval of the Minutes were postponed until the next meeting.

Next Meeting Agenda Topics & Date: October 12, 2022 at 7pm by Zoom. Possible agenda items include the Foster School, a report out on any meeting with the Select Board, continued activity on the Climate Action Plan, climate action survey results, and choosing a date for a report out on the draft components of the Climate Action Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brad E. Moyer