CAST Meeting Notes March 2, 2022

Approved minutes of the March 2 meeting

Selectboard Meeting Recap: Expectations from the Selectboard following the February presentation include: More than one monthly meeting; More details about our plan; Addition of a Selectboard member as a liaison; Town Manager asked us to make a presentation to the SB in July, rather than August, so it comes at the start of the annual budget cycle.

John described what he called “cross currents” between our committee and other commission and committees. John suggests that a future communication to the Selectboard clarify that we don’t see our role as implementing the CAP. We see our role, in 2022, as assembling and coordinating information about the work of other departments, committees and commissions towards fulfilling the goals of the CAP.

Molly suggested a day-long meeting sharing information, establishing priorities. In the short term, Molly suggested asking each commission and committee to compile a list of their priorities towards the implementation of the CAP. Dana will compile a memo that will pose the following questions:

1) What goals of the Climate Action Plan are you currently working on?
2) What goals are you planning to implement in the next year?
3) Do you have a timeline for completing those goals?
4) Are there any goals that you need additional resources to meet? (I.E. funding, volunteer labor consultants etc.)

Ashton, Laura will review the CAP and see what sections should be implemented by which Board, Commission or Committee. It was noted that there may be overlap in efforts of the various groups.

Future Meetings: We will hold meetings on the first and third Wednesday at 5 o’clock.

Departure of Department Heads: Hartford lost a deputy police chief and DWP head. Molly suggested that awareness of the CAP be part of the job description for the new hires. Dana will ask Tracy to include a wording in the job descriptions for open administrative positions to include a requirement that the successful candidate will advance the Climate Action Plan in their department. Laura suggested that all existing job descriptions for positions having administrative oversight of climate policy be updated to reflect those duties as outlined in the CAP.

Flexible Load Management Program: Dana wants to enroll the town hall in the program to demonstrate that electrification will work. Molly said the plan appeared sound, but the town should not abandon efforts create Distributed Energy Resource systems.