

DRAFT
Hartford Climate Advisory Committee
July 8, 2020

Present: Erik Krauss; Courtney Williamson; Jack Spicer; Ana Mejia; Alan Johnson, Selectboard Liaison; Geoff Martin, Energy Coordinator

Erik called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Act 92 Compliance: Erik read the Act 92 compliance agreement.

Additions/changes to the agenda: Erik suggested adding a time to address questions from bidders after the meeting minutes, as well as a status update on recruiting for the vacant CAC position. All agreed.

Approve draft minutes from the June 10 and June 24 meetings: Courtney moved to approve the June 10th meeting minutes. Ana seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the June 24th minutes, Erik suggested second-hand knowledge be stated as such. Jack moved and Ana seconded to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Addressing Questions from Bidders: Geoff read through the questions the Town had received so far from potential bidders. The first question asked if the deadline for the final draft could be extended to ensure community engagement.

Ana asked if extending the deadline will mean a higher cost for the work. Geoff said that the budget is published in the RFP. Ana said that this is an engaged community and proposed keeping the December 16, 2020 deadline.

Jack said that if the Town tells bidders why the deadline was established (to help guide the budget process) maybe they will be able to push some other tasks out. Alan agreed. Erik said that if the concern is community engagement, then the consultant should allow for that before the first draft, not the final draft. Why would they be concerned about the final deadline for that reason and not the first draft deadline?

Alan said that if the plan includes more ballot initiatives, the plan needs to be delivered by December.

All agreed that the deadline should not be changes unless given a sufficient justification that addresses the Town's constraints and reasoning for the deadline.

The second question asked whether the Town preferred to use a particular GHG emissions protocol. Members agreed to state that the Town has been working with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC), but the consultant should recommend the appropriate protocol.

CAC agreed that the 5-year Energy Action Plan (EAP) should be made available to all bidders to bring them up to date on prior and ongoing efforts.

The group discussed how to deal with incoming questions going forward. Erik asked Geoff to answer the obvious questions from bidders, but CAC can call a special meeting on questions Geoff needs input on.

Receive status updates and coordinate efforts to prepare for the CAP:

Community engagement (Courtney & Ana)

Courtney suggested reviewing the talking points that were drafted. Courtney went to the Resolution and pulled the goals; she also pulled language on "just transition" from respected organizations.

Erik said that the voters have already spoke when they passed the ballot initiative, so the CAC is not starting from behind. Seven out of ten Vermonters recognize that climate change is a real threat. Instead, committee members should use the recognition that climate change is a real threat as a jumping off point and aim to prevent the worst effects of climate change by limiting warming to 1.5 degrees.

Geoff suggested that one talking point should be the need to address climate change at the local level. Alan suggested highlighting that meeting the targets in the Resolution is not about piety and sacrifice, but rather about achieving the short term and local benefits of these actions. Hartford will be better off for having taken these measures.

There was discussion about how to involve groups in building partnerships and agreement that some groups may be willing and more suited to help draft particular talking points. Courtney agreed to draft an email to HCOREI to see at what level they would be able and willing to get involved.

Geoff reached out to fuel dealers in town and suggested that CAC should be aware about how it engages with folks in that industry and include them in the concept of a just transition. Erik added that there are other folks to include too, including car mechanics, HVAC specialists, etc. that will be economically impacted by this plan.

Members agreed to allow this to be a living document that does not need to be finalized or approved by the group. The group also agreed to divide up list of organizations to reach out to. Members agreed to note whether they would be willing to reach out to an organization on the list and to add other organizations to the list by Sunday.

New members recruitment: Geoff said that Chuck Wooster was too busy to join as a member but was invited to join when he can. Ana will reach out to a colleague, Catelyn, who agreed to join a meeting to inform her decision about whether to join. Ana will forward next meeting's agenda to her.

The group agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, July 28 at 5 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.