

DRAFT
Hartford Ad-Hoc Climate Advisory Committee Minutes
October 31, 2019

Present: Simon Dennis, Alan Johnson, Kevin Christie, Peter Merrill, Erik Krauss, Jack Spicer, Matt Osborn, Geoff Martin

Review of the Agenda: Geoff went over the agenda. Peter asked to include a discussion on the approach the committee wishes to take in terms of coming to an agreement on the language for the declaration.

Review of the Committee's Charge: The committee reviewed its charge to draft language to the Selectboard and School Board for the Climate Emergency Declaration (CED) and the ballot language. There was discussion on the deadlines for the draft language, which the committee felt were too soon to meet effectively. Jack asked whether the language had to be identical for both the Selectboard and School Board. The charge did not explicitly specify, so there was agreement that there is some freedom to word them differently if desired.

Election of Officers: After a discussion, Alan moved that the committee appoint Jack as the Chair. Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Next, Alan moved that the committee appoint Erik as Vice Chair. Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Finally, Alan moved that the committee appoint Geoff as Clerk. Peter seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Dates: The Committee agreed to meet next on 11/12 and 11/14 from 5:30 – 7:30.

Review of other CEDs and Process for Bringing Draft to Committee:

Peter, recognizing that climate change has become politicized, urged the committee to stick to facts and avoid phrases that may anger some.

Geoff reviewed the examples of other CEDs. Simon felt that the committee should not get too deep into the specifics of other examples, but rather discuss what can/cannot be included in Hartford's CED. Erik felt that "just transition" is a key phrase used in many other CEDs, and would like to find a way to use that phrase without it being politicized. The committee agreed to define key words and phrases to limit language being misconstrued or misinterpreted. Simon thought a good starting point for drafting the CED would be to find out what would be acceptable to the School Board.

Peter thought the CED should start with statements about what is currently happening around the world as well as locally with regard to the impacts of climate change, and statements on the latest climate science. Next, a discussion of what will happen if Hartford and the world do not take action would be appropriate. A statement of the principles the Town and School District ought to follow could come next. Finally, there could be a description of what Hartford should do to address climate change, with the details of this plan laid out in the ballot initiative.

The committee agreed to write a few different drafts in advance of the next meeting. The following groups formed to write a draft: Peter and Kevin; Simon and Alan; and Erik and Jack.

Final Words and Closing:

Kevin urged the committee to try to find a way to connect with a wide range of people, and recognized there would need to be a delicate balance. Erik recommended that each group keep in mind the ballot initiative when drafting the CED.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Martin, Clerk