

DRAFT
Hartford Ad-Hoc Climate Advisory Committee Minutes
November 12, 2019

Present: Simon Dennis, Alan Johnson, Kevin Christie, Erik Krauss, Jack Spicer, Matt Osborn, Geoff Martin, Peter Merrill (joined the meeting at 5:41)

Jack called the meeting to order at 5:33.

Minutes: Erik moved and Kevin seconded that the 10-31-2019 minutes pass as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Additions/changes to the agenda: No changes were made to the agenda.

Review of draft declaration and discussion: Peter explained that he used pieces of each Climate Emergency Declaration from other towns for the draft he put together. Most of the content came from Burlington, some came from Woodstock. He wanted to avoid the use of buzzwords, and provide specific, actionable items.

There was general agreement that the draft was a very good starting point, and that it should remain at two pages in length.

Jack said that the draft was mostly about climate mitigation, with little discussion of adaptation, and he would like to see more on adaptation. Simon, Alan, and Erik all agreed that adaptation should be included. Peter agreed, but wanted to avoid any mention of geoengineering.

Alan asked if citations should be included in the declaration. Peter didn't think citations are appropriate in this type of document, and Kevin agreed with Peter. Erik felt like the references to the IPCC were sufficient for citations. Alan wondered if, instead of in-text citations, there could be footnotes at the end of the document. Peter suggested putting together a separate document full of references and studies that could be distributed to anyone with questions about where information came from.

Geoff noted that other declarations call for achieving net-zero emissions by 2030, and the draft is absent any emissions target. Peter felt that any target should be left to the boards to decide. Simon said that net-zero is a necessity for the planet, and has seen arguments that the target for achieving this should be 2025, but does not think this target is politically viable. He thinks that 2030 is a good compromise.

Erik commented on the "whereas" section – he thinks the declaration should include Vermont-specific language on climate impacts, and that temperatures should be given in Fahrenheit.

Peter felt that the Committee should include examples of how achieving aggressive goals is possible in the references document.

Erik asked about including a clause on what would happen to the planet if temperature limits (1.5°, 2°C, etc.) are exceeded. He thinks the declaration should include ecological impacts, rather than a singular focus on energy. Peter argued that doing so may broaden the declaration too much, and start to go beyond just the impacts of climate change to human impacts more generally. Simon argued that climate impacts alone will have extremely negative ecological effects. Erik cautioned against focusing solely on

temperature rise and energy. Changing the world's energy system to eliminate emissions could still leave an extractive economy, and lead to a transition that is unjust.

Jack argued that the focus should be on impacts in Hartford, and thus adaptation. Kevin agreed this would be very practical and easy for the public to understand. He thinks that Vermont's website on climate change is a great resource. Alan mentioned the potential impact of climate refugees moving to Hartford. He also felt the declaration should include the economic costs of climate change to Hartford, and include real data. Simon thought Michael Simpson from Antioch University might have data.

Moving to the "therefore" section, Simon felt that the Committee could draw from Woodstock's example. Erik would like to get definitions for "net-zero" vs. "carbon neutral" vs. "zero-emissions".

Peter and Kevin said that they felt the "therefore" section on budgets was important to show the community that the boards are considering how tax dollars should be spent, and are being intentional in making those decisions.

Erik felt there should be a resolution to commit the Town to creating a plan.

Next Steps: Alan committed to condense the document before the Thursday meeting. Any edits should be sent to Alan by Wednesday. The Committee agreed to extend the timeline to achieve its charge slightly. The Committee set up meetings for December 5th and 18th at 5:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Martin, Clerk