

**DRAFT**  
**Hartford Ad-Hoc Climate Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**November 14, 2019**

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

Jack called the meeting to order at 5:41

**Additions/changes to the agenda:** The draft minutes from 11-12-2019 had not yet been posted and will have to be reviewed at the next meeting.

**Discussion:** The committee reviewed the updated draft that Alan put together.

Peter commented that the IPCC report was in 2018, not 2019 as the draft stated. The committee discussed which dates to use for a starting point for warming. Erik noted that most of the warming has occurred since 1980. Erik proposed skipping this part of the discussion and focusing on the actions in the “be it resolved” section. The committee agreed.

Erik wondered if the declaration should specify a goal/target and commit the Town to supporting action. Without a commitment to specified action, Town operations would likely continue business as usual.

Peter felt that the statement about considering climate change when producing budgets is a commitment. Discussion followed about whether or not to include a target in the declaration. There was agreement that a target would give the public an opportunity to see if the boards are living up to their commitments. Peter suggested that the committee should come up with the goal the Boards should achieve, but not the details about how to get to the goal.

Alan suggested that the boards should have to produce a “plan” rather than a “report”. All agreed. Peter suggested that the declaration should use either the state’s goals or IPCC goals – perhaps using the IPCC’s numbers of a 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030, and net-zero by 2035-2040.

Simon argued for trying to achieve net-zero by 2030. Alan suggested 45% by 2025, and NZ by 2030. Peter felt uncomfortable using these targets without knowing the costs.

Alan argued that market forces will get the state close to those targets without much cost. Erik noted the VT legislature goals established in 2007 are not being met, and market forces alone will not get the state there. VT did not commit enough resources to solve the problem. The boards need to commit to prioritizing resources to support the goals of the declaration.

Peter suggested using the more aggressive of the two goals (VT vs IPCC). Alan said that the IPCC report looked at emission reductions globally – VT is wealthier than the rest of the world and should have more aggressive targets.

Simon is in favor of putting forth an aggressive goal in the declaration, and backing it with a ballot initiative. Kevin said that from a budget perspective, if the boards make this commitment, they will be hyper sensitive to meeting the goal when proposing a budget. Peter said he is hesitant to put something before the voters that is too aggressive and that they will not accept – he would like to have evidence that the goal is appropriate.

Kevin said that the declaration needs to be clear and defensible. The committee will have opportunities to make the case to the public before the ballot initiative is voted on, and that convincing people that a goal is appropriate is often more about telling a story than it is about facts. Simon noted that Hanover’s Selectboard unanimously voted in favor of the 100% renewable by 2030 – people are worried about climate change and looking for leadership.

The committee agreed to include a commitment to reach net-zero by 2030 in the declaration.

A discussion followed on whether to use “climate emergency” instead of “climate change”, and “global heating” instead of “global warming”. The committee agreed to use “climate emergency” and “global warming”.

Erik said he was still unclear on what actions the Town is committing to take as a result of the declaration. Peter thought that any actionable commitment should fit within the ballot initiative.

The committee considered when the action plan that the declaration calls for should be completed by. The committee agreed that it should be completed by the end of September 2020 so that it could be considered at the joint meeting between boards and during the budget cycle.

Erik noted that the declaration should include commit to updating the public annually on progress towards adaptation goals as well as mitigation goals. He also noted that he was still uncertain about whether the declaration includes enough language on citizen engagement and empowerment.

After some discussion on whether or not the declaration is complete and could be voted on, the committee decided to wait until the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to vote.

The Committee agreed to start thinking about potential ballot initiatives in the meantime.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Martin, Clerk