

**DRAFT**

**Hartford Climate Advisory Committee**

**January 18, 2021**

**Special Meeting**

Erik Krause called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm

**Present:** Erik Krauss; Lucas Gilbert; Jack Spicer

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

**Introductions:** Members met and introduced themselves to new member Lucas Gilbert, who was familiar with the work of the committee.

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes:** Erik stated that there was not a quorum to approve meeting minutes, and members therefore agreed to continue this discussion item to the next regular meeting.

**Public Information Campaign for Climate Act Resource Funding:** The Selectboard proposed language for a warrant article to fund climate initiatives. Erik raised concerns with the Selectboard about the proposed warrant article because it does not seem to do what was promised or be crafted in compliance with applicable VLCT guidance. We will likely know what the language will be for the warrant article relating to the Committee's work after tomorrow's Selectboard meeting.

Erik found out that there will not be a warrant night to educate voters about ballot initiatives because there are not any warrant articles that require a presentation this year. To inform voters in lieu of a warrant night, Lucas offered to pass quarter sheet information flyers out while he is canvassing for Selectboard candidates in Town. To do this, Erik stated that we will need to draft language, print the quarter sheets out, and get the printed quarter sheets to Lucas and others who will pass them out.

Erik said that once we know the Article number, he will draft language for the quarter sheets. According to Erik, we do not have a budget for printing, but we might be able to get the Town to print them for us out of the Planning Department's budget. Lucas believes they will canvassing around 2,000 households, but will look into this and let members know if this figure changes. Lucas can get the quarter sheets into the hands of canvassers. Erik said we will use the same or similar language to the listserv where he will post.

**Presentation to Selectboard/staff for achieving municipal carbon neutrality:** Erik stated that this is a continuation of a discussion about educating the Selectboard and staff about what

needs to happen in order for the Town to meet its climate goals. Ana and Erik spoke with paleBluedot which agreed to include Scope 3 predictions in the Climate Action Plan. Erik stated that Ana agreed to reach out to Jack Cushman to see if he would be willing to present to the Selectboard but we have not heard back on any developments there. This discussion will be continued to the next meeting.

Lucas recommended waiting for the new Town manager to arrive before any presentations are given. Erik stated that he was thinking the presentation will be in March but we have not set a date.

**Work Plan for Feb. – June 2021:** The timeline set out by paleBLUEdot for the climate action team ends in May and Erik asked what we should be doing to ensure success in next steps. He believes that internal facing communications need to ramp up because it became apparent that the Selectboard needs to continually hear from us, especially after elections in March. He hopes we can have a slidedeck that we reuse in regular presentations to the Selectboard. Erik will reach out to Courtney Williamson to see if she would be willing to make a base slidedeck from existing presentations. Jack said that part of the role of having a Selectboard liaison and that we should set expectations for our liaison to also keep the Selectboard apprised of what we are up to. Jack stated that we were without a liaison for some time and that put us out of touch with Selectboard. Lucas said that Rachel Edens is expected to return to meetings. Erik said that the Energy Coordinator position will not be filled until at least after March election when the budget is considered.

Erik stated that on external communications, there are some ongoing concerns. There are people reaching out to us about the work we are doing, including other towns (Pomfret, S. Burlington, Hartland) interested in how we are approaching the climate action plan, and he hopes to have information organized as a resource. Erik said we can post content on the Town's webpage for CAC. To do this, we would send content to Lori and ask her to post it if that is what we want to do. Erik said we should come up with a set of documents to provide to Town so they can decide what to post. Erik will send out document with South Burlington's questions that will be the start to a FAQ page. Members should contribute responses that we can edit at next Regular Meeting.

Erik stated that we are also relying on staff and the Selectboard to make climate a central piece of planning decisions. Erik stated that we need to break the Climate Action Plan down into components that are communicated to the Selectboard so that they are not receiving it all at once. Erik plans to communicate with paleBLUEdot about what to provide and when to provide it to Selectboard. The Climate Action Team would be involved in this process and the Climate Action Roadmap is a logical place to start.

Erik stated that after the March election we will have an idea of funding. We should begin thinking about what RFPs we should draft. He believes that we need expert help understanding some proposals on a granular and detailed level, such as which vehicles to sell and replace and when. These decisions will need detailed analysis and we will have to pay for that.

**Closing Comments:** Erik will provide Lucas with Open Meeting laws overview and Lucas is expected to get a SharePoint login shortly from Town staff. Erik told Lucas to email him to arrange Zoom meeting if he has questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Spicer, Clerk