

## Hartford Climate Advisory Committee October 13, 2021

Erik Krauss called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. The meeting was held at Harford Town Hall, Room 2, and remotely via TEAMS platform.

**Present:** Committee members Erik Krauss, Lucas Gilbert, and Carolyn Hooper; Town Staff Matt Osborn, and Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Dana Clawson.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** Erik suggested the meeting focus on Agenda Item VI (Discuss potential ballot articles to recommend to Selectboard for March 2022 Town Meeting) and postpone Agenda Item VII until Jack and Courtney were able to attend, report, and participate.

**Public Comments:** None

**Meeting Minutes:** Carolyn moved to approve Sept 13 meeting minutes. Lucas seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Introductions:** Members of CAC present introduced themselves to Dana Clawson, the new Hartford Environmental Sustainability Coordinator. Dana then introduced himself, giving his background, what drew him to apply for the position, and where/how he hopes to begin in his role.

**Discussion of potential ballot articles to recommend to Selectboard for March 2022 Town Meeting:** Carolyn wants to see the Climate Action Implementation Team, as proposed in the CAP, be assembled either before or concurrently with any CAC priority recommendations to the Selectboard. Lucas suggested a project that involved putting solar on town land somewhere could be a good first request of the voters. Erik asked whether a proposal that may be covered by Zoning regulations needs to be put on a ballot or whether it was covered by the Zoning process. Matt thought the Zoning process would properly cover that kind of issue. Lucas also tagged CAP Action Items TL 2-12 (bldg. density) and TL 3-1 (create an EV plan) as possible ballot options. Erik asked what we might want to put on a ballot to test support for the implementation process, especially for costlier items. It would be good to flesh out ideas and/or implementation plans with the new team. In terms of timing, something would need to be ready for the Selectboard to look at by late Nov, early Dec for Jan approval as a ballot measure.

Carolyn noted that lots of the Priority 1 items call for making a “plan”; perhaps it would be good to choose one or two to flesh out as “low hanging fruit”, one within municipal strategies and one within private or community strategies. Dana suggested his idea of what the Implementation Team would look like was a team of department representatives plus some citizen boards. He felt a first priority would be education about some of the wording in the CAP, especially as they might pertain to “fear of impact” by either municipal employees or citizens. Erik felt his priorities were 1) retrofitting buildings and 2) public transit.

The group discussed whether it was best to pick one priority and just work on that, or sift through the many priorities and create a plan that involved implementing more than one simultaneously. Carolyn asked if we could find a way to do both.

A discussion of the Climate Reserve funds arose. What is the criteria and usage for the funds, and how do we make sure there is documentation of when a request comes in, where it comes from, and how the follow-through happens. Carolyn suggested that a ballot initiative might want to demonstrate to the voters that the funds are being used as they requested.

Erik suggested we wait for input from Jack and Courtney before further discussion, and that he would send out a poll for a special meeting time in late Oct/early Nov. He also asked Dana where the process was for creating a Town CAP implementation team. Dana responded that he had just met with Tracy about this topic briefly that day. The outcome was the recognition that “we need to do this” but they will be meeting again soon to follow up. Dana asked if anyone on CAC had ideas about what this team would look like. Erik proposed a small (4-5) core group of people, like a steering committee. It would definitely include Dana and 1-2 CAC members, and probably a municipal representative. Concurrently, there could be working sub-groups in each of the 9 sectors, both private and municipal. Erik to think of additional candidates for the steering committee from the CAP Team volunteers. It was agreed that steering committee meetings would need to be open to the public and include minutes. There will be an Action Item for Dana from this meeting that the steering committee would be assembled and ready to meet in the next 3 weeks. Dana will work with Erik to propose a scope of responsibilities for this committee.

**Updates:** a) Erik read Tracy’s response to his note asking about status and availability of Climate Reserve Funds. The response suggests that funds are not yet deposited, but will be available by June 30, 2022. b) Lucas reported on grant funding opportunities based on Fed and State options. No definite project monies designated for Hartford from the state, but there are some grant possibilities through VT.gov that seem to correspond to CAP action items. Lucas to add a “resources” column to the CAP implementation Excel matrix.

**Liaison and Staff Reports:** This will become a regular agenda item for the future, now that Dana has started his ESC position, and with regular attendance to CAC meetings of town staff and committee liaisons assisting with the CAP implementation.

**Closing and Adjournment:** Erik passed around a thank you card for Ted Redmond of paleBLUEdot for committee members to sign.

Lucas moved to adjourn and Carolyn Seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Carolyn Hooper, CAC Committee Member and acting Clerk for 13 Oct 2021

---