

City of Keene
New Hampshire

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 5, 2017, 8:00 AM

Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Members Present:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Gary Lamoureux, Councilor
Megan Straughen
Chris Brehme
Terry Clark
Larry Dachowski, Alternate
Richard Cornelius, Alternate
Dee Robbins, Guest
Colleen O'Brian, Guest

Staff Present:

Michele Chalice, Planner

Members Not Present:

Mari Brunner

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Hansel called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and a roll call was conducted.

2. Approval of May 3 & June 7, 2017 minutes

Vice Chair Hansel motioned to approve the May 3 minutes and was seconded by Mr. Dachowski and passed by unanimous vote of the committee.

Ms. Straughen motioned to approve the June 7 minutes and was seconded by Mr. Dachowski and passed by unanimous vote of the committee.

Vice Chair Hansel referenced a sentence on page 6 of the June 7 minutes, "Councilor Shed agreed to the goal of rolling out the comprehensive Weatherization program to the public in two years as stated in the Master Plan" as incorrect and suggested the sentence be changed to "Councilor Shed agreed to the goal of rolling out the comprehensive Weatherization program to the public in two years as stated by the internal goals of the steering committee." Ms. Chalice agreed to change the sentence as well as a couple of other typos having to do with Mr. Maslanski and "ashtray".

Mr. Clark joined the meeting late so Vice Chair Hansel made another motion to approve the June 7 minutes, Mr. Clark seconded and it was passed by unanimous vote of committee.

3. Report back – Results of Paris Accord Motions at PLD, June 21 & City Council (July 6)-

Mr. Clark stated that the results of the Paris Accord motions were positive and were recommended unanimously and will go before the Council tomorrow night. Ms. Chalice asked Mr. Clark to clarify the distinction between the two motions. Mr. Clark stated that the committee's motion was to join the "We are Still In" movement letter and said it was voted unanimously and he suspects it will be accepted as well. Vice Chair Hansel said he gained some clarity on the two motions that night when both motions were debated, the first being a letter from the Mayor's Council template which was an important internal step, and the more public one being the "We are Still In" letter, representing an international effort to support the Paris Accord.

Ms. Chalice stated that the Mayor still has an outstanding letter from November regarding Community Supported Solar from CCP which was also approved by Council and to perhaps have him sign onto the "We are Still In" existing document and the outstanding Community Supported Solar draft at the same time on Thursday night. Vice Chair Hansel asked if the community-supported solar letter was in regard to specific legislation and Ms. Chalice replied that it was encouraging legislation to make community solar easier to implement. She stated the John Kondos of Monadnock Sustainability Network has received a \$10,000 grant and is looking for additional community solar projects in the area to compete for 1.5M. She said that as of now it is still difficult to implement solar projects financially in New Hampshire and the letter encourages the Mayor to support legislation that would facilitate these projects. Mr. Dachowski asked if it was necessary to make a motion today to encourage the Mayor and Ms. Chalice suggested that instead, individuals should make recommendations to their Councilors who can then make recommendations to the Mayor.

Ms. O'Brien (Guest) entered the room and introduced herself and her interest in learning more about climate action in Keene. Vice Chair Hansel asked Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Robbins if they had any questions about what was discussed and Ms. Robbins expressed interest in the solar project. Ms. Chalice asked if she would like more information about that initiative and she replied yes. Vice Chair Hansel suggested to members that they attend the City Council meeting Thursday night at 7 pm.

4. Report back – Monadnock Progressive Alliance meeting

Mr. Clark stated that City Planner, Rhett Lamb and himself addressed questions at the Monadnock Progressive Alliance meeting about the new gas plant. He said they covered the rules and history of what is going on in the city regarding Liberty Utility's efforts to temporarily replace the propane air system currently servicing Keene and implement an experimental natural gas system that would feed the Monadnock marketplace.

Mr. Clark said that they clearly stated to the committee that the City does not have much influence on the matter as it is a public utilities commission and planning board issue and the process is completed. He stated that the only reason the City was involved at all was due to placement of the facility on high ground and "road abandonment" which precludes the wetland permits. Due to the high ground siting, Mr. Clark said that the City staff

suggested that Liberty Utility's Phase 2 will have to go for Site Plan Review before the Planning board in the company's estimated 18 months to 2 years. He said that the City suggested that they learn about the Planning board permitting process well in advance as they would require digging into wetlands. Ms. Chalice said they would have to go before the Conservation Commission. Mr. Clark said the permitting process will start next year and they would need to have the planning in order before they start building taking into consideration public objections to the plan. Vice Chair Hansel said the process probably needs to go through the Wetlands Board if it they are filling in any wetlands, if it is above the floodplain level they will need to address the City on that as well and can be brought up with the Planning board.

Ms. Chalice stated that there are two important venues to learn about in order for the public to resist the plan: the wetland and floodplain issues are both within the purview of the City. Dee Robbins asked if there are any other sites Liberty Utility is considering. Ms. Chalice said that is up for them to determine and to propose to the City. Mr. Clark stated that they already own the land on Emerald Street so they could alternatively use that site. Vice Chair Hansel said that the DES has accepted a lot of mitigation around wetlands and floodplains in the past 10 to 15 years. Ms. Chalice stated that if the public makes a raucous it will make it harder for them to propose their plans to the City.

Mr. Hansel asked if the public interest's standing on furthering dependence on fossil fuels is of importance here and Mr. Clark replied that moving towards renewables is in the CCP's master plan and that the Planning Board adopts rules independently of City Council (19 standards) and there is no reason that they should not consider adding a rule about community interests. Vice Chair Hansel said the 19 standards were put into place when the Monadnock Marketplace project occurred? Was being considered and he is surprised they have not added more yet. Mr. Clark suggested crafting a "20th" standard that takes into consideration the best interests of the community and presenting it to members of the Planning board.

Ms. Robbins said that when she made a statement at the City Council she was taking points from the 2007 Adaptation Plan and she was only hearing the 2004 Master Plan goals. Ms. Chalice replied that they are referred to as "aspirational goals" for progress within the City and that the public can write a letter to City Council to start a dialogue about transforming "aspirational goals" to "real world goals" as the CCP do not have authority to do that. Vice Chair Hansel said one question that has been asked is whether or not the City Council can reconsider their vote about abandonment of the road in the Liberty Utilities case and his best understanding is that reconsideration would have to be brought up at the next City Council meeting. Mr. Clark said he does not think there are hard and fast rules but that the deed is already being drawn up and will become legal soon so it needs to be done before that happens. He also said that he does not believe they will reconsider.

5. WEATHERIZATION SUMMIT: Tasks-Schedule.

Ms. Chalice stated that Anne was not able to secure funding from Ms. Peters from Eversource so they will need to try a different avenue. Ms. Straughen said that they could submit a donation request to the Monadnock Co-Op although she should not submit request as an employee of the Co-Op. She also stated that more information is needed

about a date, but that CCP will most likely have their donation request approved for at least a portion of the food depending on number of people and type of food.

Ms. Chalice said she spoke to the Library about holding Weatherization Summit in the basement, and also left a message with the building manager of SAU 29 at Keene Middle School about holding the Button Up Summit in their administration building as the committee had discussed holding event in the Maple Acres neighborhood. She said she would also talk to the Community Room across the street from the Co-Op for the Weatherization Summit in September for a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday event date at 8 am. She said she is waiting to hear back from Ms. Peters about date and time for the Button Up Summit as Saturdays would work best for residents. She also said she has not seen an email about Button Up and that perhaps it is going through Chair Shedd. Ms. Straughen stated that Chair Shedd had spoken with Ms. Peters about the Button Up event last year and she believes she has been in communication with her since then about it.

Ms. Robbins asked what the Button Up summit is and recommended that the Senior Housing Community at the end of Court Street has more space than the Southwest Community. Vice Chair Hansel stated that Button Up is a statewide effort funded by Eversource focusing on weatherization tips for residential communities. Ms. Straughen said Eversource probably publicizes the event and it is held in different towns each year. Ms. Chalice recommended that they consider the Senior Housing community at the end of Court Street because it is close to Maple Acres and she said she will get more information and share it with committee at next month's meeting.

Vice Chair Hansel recommended that they focus on Weatherization Roundtable event by securing a date so they can begin reaching out to stakeholders. He said that the September date at 7:30 am is fast approaching and would have to be put off until Spring if not coordinated soon. He suggested publicizing event in the Co-Op, Chamber and Stonewall Farm newsletters. Ms. Straughen asked if the Keene Homebuilders Association has a list serve or some other system of communicating with each other that they can perhaps tap into. Mr. Clark said he would contact the Board of Realtors. Ms. Straughen said she could communicate effectively with the general public in her capacity but not specifically to a targeted group. Vice Chair Hansel said a Call to Contractors may be helpful. Vice Chair Hansel said Ms. Chalice was supposed to talk to Christa Daniels and Mr. Brehme agreed to reach out to faculty member Tom Webler at Keene State College about facilitation. Vice Chair Hansel suggested coordinating communication between Chair Shedd, Ms. Chalice and Mr. Brehme. Ms. Straughen suggested sending out a webpage to distribute.

6. City Committee Survey/Discussion

In reference to the City Committee survey, Mr. Clark stated that periodically the City Manager's office reassesses how they utilize resources by gathering feedback from committee members about the importance of staff liaisons and minute-takers to committee meetings. He said he thinks it is very difficult for a committee to operate without a minute taker and the staff liaison is a knowledgeable asset to the committee, so he thinks they should recommend keeping staff liaison and minute taker.

Vice Chair Hansel shared that certain committees like Friends of Open Space which are operating outside of the City may be able to hire secretaries but that CCP is attempting to fulfill a function of the City's Master Plan and is better off having City support. Mr. Clark said the Economic Development Committee came up with a recommendation that there should be a committee who greets and talks to business people looking at siting their work in Keene about demographics and working in Keene and that the City Manager's office is trying to create a model where they can have committees like that and the survey is a means of assessment.

Vice Chair Hansel said that Question number 5 asked if committee members could reasonably take on the role of staff liaisons and minute-takers and his thinking was that it is possible but it would be very difficult to assume those extra responsibilities. Mr. Clark shared that his experience without staff members with the City's Drug Addiction Task Force was that tasks were not completed as effectively. Dr. Brehme said he thinks that committee members are currently doing a lot of the research, minute taker review and outreach. Ms. Straughen said she thought Ms. Shedd set the agenda as well. Mr. Clark said that although Chair Shedd sets the agenda she also passes it on to Ms. Chalice. Mr. Dachowski said that is very important to have a staff liaison to coordinate schedules and offer input about calendars, procedures, timing and other aspects that committee members are not necessarily privy to.

Vice Chair asked members if there were any other questions or comments and if not to pass surveys in and he will take them down to Clerk's office. He then asked if there was anything else anyone wanted to bring up on the agenda. Mr. Dachowski stated that the quality of help from the staff liaison is highly appreciated. Ms. Robbins added that the minute-taking role is very important as well.

6. Adjournment – Next Meeting, Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Vice Chair Hansel adjourned the meeting at 8:50 am. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute-Taker