

City of Keene
New Hampshire

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 2, 2017, 8:00 AM 2nd Floor Committee Conference Room, City Hall

Members:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Gary Lamoureux, Councilor
Megan Straughen
Terry Clark
Larry Dachowski, Alternate
Dick Cornelius, Alternate
Jessica Baum, Guest
Colleen O'Brien, Guest

Staff Members:

Rhett Lamb, Planning Director
Michele Chalice, Planner

Members not present:

Chris Brehme
Mari Brunner

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

Chair Shedd called the meeting to order at 8:04 am and a roll call was conducted. She thanked Ms. Straughen, who is moving to New Orleans this month, for her work with the committee and the community. She also thanked her for finding a replacement for her position and introduced Ms. Jessica Baum to the committee, a W.S. Badger Company marketing and sustainability employee with a commitment to community climate action initiatives.

2. Approval of July 5, 2017 minutes

Ms. Chalice asked members for clarification for July minutes and discussed minor changes with minute-taker. Mr. Dachowski asked Ms. Chalice to check the roster for July 5 to make sure all members were accounted for. Ms. Chalice checked and ensured all members were listed. Vice Chair Hansel motioned to approve the July 5 minutes and was seconded by Mr. Clark and passed by unanimous vote of the committee.

3. Weatherization Round Table: 9/27, Stone Arch Senior Center, moderator, keynote speaker, format, and participant recruitment

Chair Shedd announced to committee that the Weatherization Round Table event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27 at 7:30 am at the Stone Arch Senior Center. She said there are still details to be finalized for event. She said Mr. Brehme talked to Mr. Webler, faculty member at KSC and experienced facilitator, and he agreed to serve as a moderator for the event. Chair Shedd also stated that Mr. Webler would make a great

addition to the committee due to his breadth of academic experience with energy policy and they should consider recruiting him. She said she will be in touch with Mr. Webler about further details and expectations committee has for his role. Chair Shedd said Mr. Webler has to be on campus by 10 am the morning of the event but she does not expect a conflict as meeting will most likely not exceed 1.5 hours if it begins by 8:00 am.

Chair Shedd asked if committee members had come up with inspiration or contacts for a keynote speaker. Ms. Chalice stated that that the keynote speaker should be chosen carefully to spark interest from contractors. She said the main challenge is determining who the contractors would like to hear from.

Chair Shedd informed committee that she had reached out to the organization Building Green in Brattleboro for potential keynote speaker candidates. She said they suggested their CEO, Mr. Nadiv Malin, a professional facilitator with a big picture approach to speaking to energy retrofitting. However, she said he would most likely be a more meta-level facilitator and they already have Mr. Webler for that role. She said the other option is Mr. Peter Yost, Vice President of Building Green, who “can speak to high-level technical perspectives on what is needed to move energy efficiency retrofits forward and better understanding of building science and high performance and how to translate it to building owners, lenders and municipalities looking to support this approach to the building stock.” Chair Shedd stated that both candidates are available for the event; however, there may be fees associated with the speakers which she said may be a limitation for the committee.

Chair Shedd stated she had also reached out to the organization Sea Coast Energized 360, which does a combination of Solarization and energy efficiency outreach and set a date next week for a phone conversation with the founders of the organization. She said Ms. Brunner may be able to join that conversation and invited committee members to join in on a conference call if interested. Chair Shedd said she also has a phone meeting with a representative from the Weatherized Upper Valley Initiative. She emphasized that there is not a lot of time to round candidates up and invited feedback from guests, Ms. Baum and Ms. O’Brien. Ms. Baum suggested contacting Benson Wood but does not believe they do retrofitting. Ms. Straughen suggested that committee members solicit feedback from contractors to specifically target their interests, perhaps through the Builders Association to get some ideas.

Vice Chair Hansel inquired about the list committee is using to send out invitations. Chair Shedd she is using the stakeholder and potential participants list. She said she did email the Keene Builders and Remodelers Association but had not received a response yet. Chair Shedd said she also tried Googling “Insulating, Roofing, HVAC and Renewable Energy contractor” categories but the search was not very productive. She used the Yellow Pages and contractor trucks around town and came up with the following: JA Jubb (infrared thermographic inspection), Melanson Company (roofing and solar) and Bergeron (plumbing retrofitting). Mr. Clark said he would look into the Homebuilders and Remodelers Association of Southwestern NH Association to see if they still have a brochure listing all of their members. Ms. Straughen asked if the City keeps a record of approved lenders. Chair Shedd said she had asked Ms. Chalice if there were records of the permits, but that Ms. Chalice did not know if there is an accessible database. Vice Chair Hansel suggested talking to Mr. Josh Meehan from Keene Housing as they have done quite a bit of remodeling and retrofitting. He also suggested that they consider Mr. Meehan as a keynote speaker. Chair

Shedd agreed and said Keene Housing is doing impressive work within the limits of their budget.

Chair Shedd reemphasized that Ms. Straughen raised a strong point about the influence a good keynote speaker would have on successful participant recruitment. She asked committee members for additional thoughts. Vice Chair Hansel suggested that perhaps contractors would be attracted to the “eco-vation” system that CCP is committed to. Chair Shedd added that she spoke with Ms. Abigail Abrash from Antioch University about the “eco-vation” initiative, which is aimed at energy efficiency upgrades for several hundred homes in the 3-county area. She said Building Green in Brattleboro is part of the “eco-vation” hub and asked Ms. Baum if Badger is participating. Ms. Baum replied that Badger has been in communication about involvement but has not taken formal steps as of yet. Chair Shedd said she would try to call Mr. Meehan later today to get feedback from him about his contacts in the community and his interest in being a keynote speaker for the Weatherization Round Table. She said that her meeting with the Seacoast 360 program next week might serve as a presentation for CCP and MPA and other groups interested in putting together a more extensive weatherization program for Keene and the region. Vice Chair Hansel said he will be on vacation until next Tuesday or Wednesday but would take on a task when he returns.

Mr. Clark agreed to contact the Homebuilders Association (HA) as they have an extensive roster of contractors listed on their website. He asked the committee for ideas about verbiage on the event so he could communicate the objectives effectively with the HA. Ms. Chalice offered to email Mr. Clark the following description of the event: *“a meeting of organizations and businesses to strategize resources that can assist residents in making their homes, whether owned or rented, more energy efficient.”* She also pointed out that the title of the event had been changed from “Weatherization Summit” to “Energy Efficiency Summit”. Ms. Chalice said she would email the event description to committee members as well. Vice Chair Hansel asked if they were using the word “Summit” or “Workshop” and Chair Shedd said they had chosen “Round Table” as the correct term because the primary objective of the event is to facilitate discussion among contractors, City Code and Kate Peters from Eversource. Vice Chair Hansel agreed that the word “Round Table” is preferable to “Summit.”

Mr. Clark asked if panel members had been chosen yet and Chair Shedd replied they have only selected the moderator at this point. Ms. Straughen informed committee that she had also secured food for the event from the Monadnock Food Co-op from their September donation budget and that it would be preferable if a committee member could pick up the food because the Co-op does not have the means to deliver it due to insurance reasons. Ms. Straughen said somebody from the Marketing department would be in touch with Ms. Chalice about further details. Chair volunteered to pick up the food.

Chair Shedd inquired about how committee will create invitations after contractor list is generated. Ms. Chalice suggested a website called EventBrite which allows people to sign up for free online. Chair Shedd suggested tri-fold paper invitations or a postcard (if there are not too many invitees) and maybe an email follow-up. She suggested that a City source may give invitations more credibility. Ms. Chalice said she would need the name of the organization to see if they would allow access to their Excel spreadsheet to generate a mailing list. Mr. Clark asked if Ms. Chalice had access to cardstock and Ms. Chalice said she had colored cardstock

available and asked committee what date they would like the invitations to be mailed out. Committee agreed to wait until after Labor Day weekend (September 4) to send invitations out. Ms. Chalice asked if anyone is interested in creating an informational flyer about event that could be placed in strategic locations such as Chamber of Commerce, etc.. Chair Shedd suggested Ms. Brunner take on that task, but emphasized that securing a keynote speaker is the first step before creating a flyer.

Ms. Chalice said she would call Ms. Peters at Eversource for a list of certified contractors because those organizations are specifically interested energy efficiency. She also mentioned looking into funders of energy efficiency projects. Chair Shedd said that the contractors are working with a different population and different set of financing sources and that the Eversource programs are probably the best avenue. She said that conversations about funding might be sparked by contractors with interested clients. Vice Chair Hansel suggested they deal with the contractors first as stakeholders and then information can be disseminated to consumers. Ms. Chalice asked for clarification about panel members. She said she will confirm Ms. Peters from Eversource's participation with an email. Chair Shedd said she would call Mr. Meehan from Keene Housing if he would like to participate in the panel. Ms. Chalice said she would speak to someone from the City Code department to see who is available. She also suggested having a homeowner perspective on the panel. Ms. Straughen suggested reaching out to contacts about a contractor or landlord who could serve as a sort of success story. Chair Shedd said she would contact Matthew Walton, Ms. Abrash's husband, who is a contractor and landlord to see if he is interested in sharing his experiences with the panel. Chair Shedd recommended having a panel of 3-4 individuals.

4. Button Up workshop: 10/7, Stone Arch Senior Center, PR

Chair Shedd stated that the Button Up workshop has been offered around the state for a number of years and is coordinated by the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative with funding from Eversource. She said Keene is approved on their list this month and the same space is reserved for Saturday, October 7. Ms. Chalice said they are working on the time for event as they are currently training presenters and will let CCP know more about timing and length of workshop, although they have expressed that workshop should be longer to allow people to mill about. She said they will generate flyer content and provide the people, however, they ask that CCP partner with other organizations to help get the word out. Ms. Chalice said since event will take place close to the Maple Acres neighborhood (an area with high wood stove concentration and lower air quality) that Maple Acres should be targeted for involvement. Ms. Straughen stated that the Co-op could promote the event on social media and said to contact Beth at marketingmonadnockcoop@gmail.com and provide her with details and any relevant images.

Ms. Chalice said they will also provide a \$75 voucher for food as well as a press release to the Keene Sentinel. Chair Shedd suggested the City of Keene homepage as an ideal location for a press release. Ms. Chalice said press release will go out to Conservation Committee as well. She pointed out that targeting Maple Acres would be strategic, perhaps by placing hang tags on doorknobs. Ms. Chalice asked if members would be willing to contact Nashua Screen Printing to ask for a donation of 200 tags. Mr. Clark volunteered to take on that task. Ms. Chalice said she would use the Safe Routes to School mailing list. Chair Shedd recommended that committee members email Ms. Chalice if they make any progress on any assigned tasks before next month's meeting.

Vice Chair Hansel suggested contacting the Keene Sentinel for hang tag donations as they may be more willing to donate. Ms. Straughen also suggested looking into the Monadnock Time Exchange as an alternative option and to ask Ms. Brunner for more information.

5. CCP Committee long-term structure, function, and goals

Chair Shedd shared that she received an email from Councilor Jacobs stating that in light of Liberty Utilities project, there is some interest in having a longer-term plan for Keene's energy future. She said that Councilor Jacobs had already spoken to the Mayor and the City Manager and that they had all agreed that CCP would be a natural home for these interests. Chair Shedd said that Vice Chair Hansel joined her to meet with the City Manager and Councilor Jacobs and that they decided that an early step would be an inventory of Keene's potential renewable energy sources, which she believes, is no easy task for CCP. She said the Mayor also indicated a willingness to increase the number of CCP members and to allow participation of non-Keene residents as long as they have a connection to the city. Vice Chair Hansel said he was hopeful about the role of CCP in Keene's energy future and said they even discussed changing name of the committee to reflect energy sustainability. He believes this is something that the committee should address together over several meetings.

Chair Shedd said she attended the Monadnock Progressive Alliance Climate Action team meeting's presentation from a representative of the NH Sierra Club member based out of Hanover. She said the presentation was focused on the "Ready for 100% Renewables" campaign, a collective of about 35 cities around the country who have signed on to the goal of 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2035, and 100% renewable energy for transportation and heating by 2050. She said Hanover unanimously voted to adopt the goals and have established a study group to facilitate goal achievement. Chair Shedd provided links for the national organization "Pathways to 100%", which she believes held its second annual discussion at the National Renewable Energy Lives in Colorado of city-level representatives discussing their transition to renewables. She said Hanover attended this year and she forwarded information to Mr. Lamb to see possibilities of Keene attending next year. Chair Shedd emphasized that it is going to take a fair amount of discussion to shift from a large range of tasks in CCP's climate action and adaptation plans to a greater focus on energy.

Ms. Chalice mentioned that she learned at a seminar about a volunteer-based energy committee in Durham came up with an Energy Master Plan which was approved by their City Council and she offered to call them to see if someone from that group could come in to talk to committee about how they accomplished their plan. Chair Shedd inquired if their plan targeted the municipal sector only or if the effort is community-wide. Ms. Chalice said she believes they started at municipal level but their vision extends community-wide. Chair Shedd and Vice Chair Hansel agreed to begin a dialogue with this energy group, however, Chair Shedd called attention to the timing as the next two months' agendas are focused on the two presentations coming up. She suggested adding an item to the November-December agenda to begin that discussion about CCP's role and function, after the Greenhouse gas emissions inventory update. She said they had been thinking to wait for the inventory to present to Council along with thoughts about setting new goals at that time. Mr. Clark said by that time the City will have signed a power purchase agreement for solar and other renewable energy that the City will be utilizing. He said that consultant will be returning with new information the third week in September and said by October 1 they will be presenting a proposal to City Council. Mr. Clark said he is on the Purchasing Committee and they are

aiming to set up a purchase agreement from two firms to buy solar energy generated elsewhere in New Hampshire. Ms. Chalice asked Mr. Clark to please update her when a decision is made on that agreement.

6. Sierra Club "Ready for 100%" campaign

Chair Shedd shared that Sierra Club representative Allyson Samuel is coming to the MPA's Climate Action Team meeting in Keene to talk about how "Ready for 100%" campaigns are put together for a community. Ms. O'Brien said MPA have planned two separate planning sessions on the last two Thursdays in August and she is unsure of what to expect. She believes it will be a lot of work, but she extended the invitation to City representatives. Ms. Shedd and Mr. Clark said they would be able to attend.

Chair Shedd asked if members had any other climate –related news to share with committee. Ms. Chalice shared a letter from Mr. Kondos that went to City Council. She said she and Mr. Lamb had a visit yesterday from Mr. Ben Colombo, a marketer from New York City who created a relationship with ICLEI and visited Keene yesterday to learn more about the city's sustainability actions. She said Mr. Colombo is a volunteer on a 50-state American Resilience Road Trip tour talking to cities about sustainability. Ms. Chalice said she shared the city's brochure with Mr. Colombo which highlights Keene's energy and solar projects and recent actions regarding the Paris Agreement. Ms. Chalice said there may be an article about his tour.

Vice Chair Hansel asked for an update on the report and Ms. Chalice said he would need to ask Ms. Brunner. Chair Shedd said she is planning to meet with Ms. Brunner on Tuesday of next week so she will ask her in person about the status of the report and then will email Ms. Chalice. Ms. Chalice stated that she is starting to receive information on the NH Sustainable Energy Association and Climate Lobby in Peterborough and said she was forwarding the information the committee's way and encouraged members to respond if interested.

7. Adjournment – Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Chair Shedd adjourned the meeting at 9:04 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute-Taker