

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 8:00 AM 2ndFloor **Committee** Conference Room, City Hall

Members:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Mari Brunner, Member
Jessica Baum, Member
Chris Brehme, Member
Gary Lamoureux, Member
Terry Clark, Councilor
Larry Dachowski, Alternate
Jake Pipp, Guest
Nancy Gillard, Guest

Staff: Michele Chalice, City Planner

Members not present:

Charles Daloz, Guest
Dick Cornelius, Alternate

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

Chair Shedd called the meeting to order at 8 am and roll call was conducted.

2. Approval of November 1, 2017 minutes

Chair Shedd moved to accept minutes with one correction:

Item four of minutes, second paragraph, “**per capita**” instead of “**per capital.**”

Motion was seconded by Mr. Clark and passed unanimously.

3. Greenhouse Gas Report Update

Ms. Brunner stated that the final update of the report is completed and undergoing internal review and comments with SWRPC. She said the numbers have not changed much since the last update; however, she did look up the per capita emissions for Keene and compared them to the rest of the U.S. and NH. She found Keene’s emissions are the same as the rest of NH and lower than U.S emissions; the per capita emissions are 21.6 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per person for the U.S. and 11.8 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per person for Keene.

Ms. Brunner stated that she found a couple of small errors for the municipal inventory, for example, for the vehicle fleet the numbers are 1,006 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents which is a bit lower than her last update. She stated that the ICLEI calculator was not set to take into account the biodiesel fuel and she has corrected the calculation. Ms. Brunner stated that she also

recalculated the street lights and traffic signals numbers and the result was 158, which is approximately 20 carbon dioxide equivalents lower than what she reported last time. Chair Shedd asked if the number represents the recent conversion to LED street lighting. Ms. Brunner agreed that that number includes the LEDs for traffic signals and for some other lighting but not for 1,500 street lights that had not yet been converted to LED.

Ms. Brunner suggested that the next step recommendations for communities setting new greenhouse gas targets should be focused on intense efforts over a shorter time frame, rather than setting longer term goals that can lose momentum within communities. She said communities can work to identify greenhouse gas reduction targets and then outline steps on how to achieve and implement those targets over the short-term to improve outcomes.

Vice Chair Hansel asked Ms. Brunner what the next steps are with the Greenhouse Gas Report. Ms. Chalice replied that the Planning Department would review it; however, she cannot speak to how it will be handled internally with the new City Manager who has not been part of the process. She said Mr. Lamb will most likely sit down with the City Manager and discuss next steps with the information they have available. Chair Shedd asked how they would disseminate public relations for the report, for example, disseminating information at public events during Earth month in April. Ms. Chalice said that would be a priority for the City Manager and Mr. Lamb and she also suggested that committee members could make recommendations to be submitted with the draft about how they would like information communicated to the public. Chair Shedd said it would be helpful to have a preliminary notion of the next steps from Ms. Brunner to provide them with directions to discuss at public presentations for next April. She also stated that April's Earth month, or Earth Day, could be set as a benchmark to work towards. Ms. Chalice asked whether she should include the document in the retreat planning. Chair Shedd recommended that copies be provided in January 3 meeting and before the retreat. Ms. Chalice agreed to secure copies for the meeting.

4. Retreat Agenda Compilation

Chair Shedd announced that Mr. Webler from Keene State College has offered to facilitate the retreat and she is planning to provide him with specific expectations from the committee before she meets with him next week or early January.

Vice Chair Hansel stated 5 different thoughts for consideration at the January retreat: (1) Modification of the mission statement to focus on transitioning towards a sustainable energy community (2) If mission statement is changed, deciding whether or not current members are comfortable with staying on board with the new focus (3) Consideration of changing the name of committee (4) Resources that will be needed to begin to work towards fulfilling the new mission (5) Exploring addition of members who do not reside in Keene but have strong connections to Keene.

Vice Chair Hansel asked Ms. Chalice if there is flexibility on the membership of energy committees. Ms. Chalice replied that the energy committee was enabled by state legislation. Ms. Brunner replied that Mr. Mack, a past Chair of CCP, and he said they changed the charter to make sure CCP could be an energy committee. Ms. Chalice agreed that they could change the

name to an energy committee as it is written in the charter that way and membership may be flexible although she said she cannot speak to that. Chair Shedd asked about the difference between energy commission and energy committee. Ms. Chalice replied that there is no distinction between the two in the City of Keene. Chair Shedd asked if the committee would be more empowered as a “commission.” Ms. Chalice replied they could take a look at the bill to verify that but it would always remain as an advisory committee to Council. Chair Shedd stated that the Conservation Commission is able to address water issues without taking those issues through the City channels and asked what the scope of independent action would be for an energy “commission” as opposed to advisory committee. Ms. Chalice said she would find out the differences in scope. Chair Shedd said that the wording of the charge to the committee added climate adaptation plans and municipal policies regarding energy conservation, energy efficiency, energy generation and zoning practices and the clause about assisting the City with the state and national energy policy impacts is what CCP has been charged with.

Vice Chair Hansel suggested focusing on the (1) Greenhouse Gas Report, ramifications and future steps with feedback from Planning Department (2) Creating an inventory of current energy sources used in Keene and potential sources.

Chair Shedd stated that Mr. Brehme has a student that may be interested in taking on the solar potential of Keene, for example, aspect and slope of rooftops which could be one piece of the inventory of Keene’s potential.

Chair Shedd stated that the retreat will last 2 hours from 4:30-6:30 so there is a lot of work to be done in that short time.

Ms. Brunner asked if they were still planning to talk about the renewable energy plan idea. Chair Shedd responded that the renewable energy may fit into the transition into a sustainable energy community. She said she will share information from committee with Mr. Webler and that at next month’s meeting perhaps they can revisit foundational documents, copy of ordinance and go over the House bill for energy committee and legislation on the agenda. Ms. Chalice asked to be informed about any other materials they may need copies of for the next meeting. Chair Shedd said it would be helpful to have a copy of the 7 page document from the Department of Energy about how to develop a strategic energy plan. Chair Shedd asked everyone to put the retreat on their calendars January 18, 4:30-6:30, in the Library Trustees Room.

5. Status of City Council Request- Renewable Energy Advocacy Letters

Ms. Chalice stated that it was challenging to ask City Councilors to do what the committee is asking without context. She said she attached the article explaining the bills that have been introduced to the legislature by particular senators that are asking to pull out of renewable energy goals. She said she provided enough background so that they could feel comfortable understanding where the measures are coming from. She sent an email to Monadnock Progressive Alliance to inform them that the request is an initial reading and the opportunity for public input will be at the Planning Licensing, Development Committee meeting January 13 at 7 pm. Chair Shedd asked other members to attend the meeting to back her up. She stated that the

legislature HB 114 would stall NH's renewable portfolio standard at its current rate of 6% rather than this requirement increase to the planned 15% toward the state's goal of 25% renewable energy by 2025. Vice Chair Hansel commented that the wording on the motion is confusing. Ms. Chalice said the motion is the revised version and she welcomes edits and comments. Chair Shedd said the confusion is due in part to the history of the bill going through various levels. It was sent to the Science, Technology and Energy Committee of the House and then a Study Committees and she believes this is the bill that this was the bill overruled by a full partisan vote. Formerly, RGGI funds would have gone into energy efficiency programs in NH but the amendment stated that instead it would go into rebates for consumers and spread out so as not to be noticeable. Vice Chair Hansel said the syntax of recommendation # 2 is not clear. Mr. Lamoureux said that as Councilors these concerns have already been discussed so the wording should be concise and this is an opportunity for the group to educate Councilors at the first reading.

Ms. Brunner suggested there is opportunity to combine recommendations #2 and #3 as the committee had talked about removing the about consumer rebates. She said RGGI funds were intended for energy efficiency project/program funding and should be the main focus as it is in other states.

Ms. Brunner moved to remove #2 and take the second half of #3 and state that NH remain in RGGI, and to increase percentage of funds that go to energy efficiency to 100%. Motion was seconded by Mr. Lamoureux and passed unanimously. Mr. Clark said he would take the revised wording to the meeting tomorrow as the deadline passed.

Chair Shedd asked if anybody else wants to take on the task in 2018 of monitoring decisions in Concord and updating committee that would be great. She said NH Representative Shepardson sometimes updates the committee on where things are moving on Concord process. Mr. Clark asked if any member of the Keene delegation is on the NH Science, Technology and Energy committee. Chair Shedd said she would ask Mr. Shepardson to verify.

Ms. Chalice asked committee if they would like to change July 4 meeting to June 27, 2018. Vice Chair Hansel moved to change July 4 meeting to June 27, Mr. Lamoureux seconded and it passed unanimously.

6. Weatherization +/- Solarization Campaign. Next Steps

Chair Shedd asked about thoughts on the next steps for the Weatherization/Solarization campaign as they have not made much progress on this agenda item. Mr. Clark asked if there is any way to find out about creating awareness, what progress may have been made by surveying neighborhoods. Ms. Chalice suggested that would make a great CSI project for Antioch students and she could write something up for a group to come up with case studies, as they case studies are powerful as communication tools. She said she could write up a scope for a CSI, however, timeline is uncertain. Chair Shedd said there might be a way to track progress through the City Code Department. Ms. Brunner asked if they could contact NH Saves and see how many people have gone through the process in Keene and gotten rebates. Mr. Brehme said the contractors may

have stories to share. Mr. Clark stated that as a realtor he is surprised at the number of houses without weatherization. Vice Chair Hansel asked if there is public money involved although that would only reveal households that received rebates. Chair Shedd suggested that next meeting might be an opportune time for Mr. Meehan from Keene Housing to come in for one of the committee meetings. She said Southwest Community Services have people that qualify for heating assistance and they could share about their success stories. Chair Shedd suggested they try to get Southwest Community Services or Keene Housing at January 5 meeting and a draft of a CSI project for Antioch. Chair Shedd asked what the time frame is for CSI projects. Ms. Brunner said she believes the deadline is October or November and Ms. Chalice said they could try anyway. Ms. Baum also suggested it could be a summer internship opportunity as well.

Chair Shedd asked about thoughts about the Solarization campaign. Ms. Brunner asked if it was too early to contact contractors to gauge their interest in Solarization. Vice Chair Hansel said the most active contractor in insulation is J A Jubb and perhaps they could see if there is coordination between Solarization contractors like Melanson and J A Jubb. He said he could contact them to see if there is a benefit to a further conversation. Chair Shedd suggested sharing with them the model that is being used in the Upper Valley and Seacoast.

7. Open Committee “Alternate” Positions

Chair Shedd announced that Mr. Cornelius would not be continuing with the committee and thanked him for his three years of service. She said that leaves the committee with 2 alternate states available. She introduced Mr. Pipp, Antioch alum, as a possible alternate. Chair Shedd stated another Antioch student is sending a CV and letter of interest to the Mayor for a possible seat in the committee. She said requests for appointment will be going through a nomination process this month through Council and appointments would be made in January. Chair Shedd said current members continue serving until told otherwise so that they will have quorum for January 3. Vice Chair Hansel asked how many members they are looking to fill. Chair Shedd responded that they have 7 members, and 2 alternate seats available, and Mayor may be open to more full members. Ms. Chalice said there are only alternate positions available as of now. Mr. Lamoureux said that January 3 is Election Day.

Ms. Brunner announced that the Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation’s annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11 at 5 pm at the HCS building, 312 Marlboro Street. They will be recognizing the college for being a silver level bicycle university. She said they will have a couple of speakers including Tiffany Mannion, the newly appointed Bicycle Mayor through Cycle Space in Europe and the first Bicycle Mayor in the United States. Second speaker is Phil Goff is a Senior Planning Associate with Alta Planning + Design. He is a design expert in alternative modes in rural communities, Complete Streets and encouraging other modes of transportation.

Ms. Chalice stated that the City is currently interviewing candidates for an 800 kilowatt system on top of the municipal complex on Marlboro Street (Public Works, Police Department) and are aiming to have it completed by next December 2018. Mr. Clark said they are also looking to buy solar power generated in other places in NH through a power agreement which would allow other buyers to purchase at a cheaper rate. Chair Shedd said that at some point if the power

purchase agreement is going to be available to other members of the community, good public relations would be necessary. Ms. Brunner said the City is buying 10% of their power from Green Energy Sources and asked Mr. Clark what percentage they are looking at. Mr. Clark said they have not yet discussed that but his aim would be 100%.

8. Adjournment – Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Chair Shedd adjourned the meeting at 8:57 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker