

City of Keene
New Hampshire

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 8:00 AM 2nd Floor **Committee** Conference Room, City Hall

Members:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Mari Brunner, Member
Jessica Baum, Member
Terry Clark, Councilor
Larry Dachowski, Alternate
Charles Daloz, Member

Staff Not Present: Michele Chalice

Guests Present:

Tom Webler, Guest
Jake Pipp, Guest
Nancy Gillard, Guest
Aperr Naadzenga, Guest

Members not present:

Gary Lamareux, Member
Chris Brehme, Member

1. **Call To Order and Roll Call**

Chair Shedd called the meeting to order at 8:02 am roll call was conducted.

2. **Approval of December 6, 2017 minutes**

Councilor Clark motioned to approve last month's minutes with revisions, Vice Chair Hansel seconded and it motion passes unanimously.

Revision: "**December 13 instead of January 13**" correction to last month's minutes.

3. **Election of Committee Officers**

Chair Shedd opened floor to nominations. Ms. Brunner nominated Anne Shedd, Mr. Clark seconded and all members were in favor of nomination. Terry Clark nominated Peter Hansel for Vice Chair, Jake Pipp seconded and all members were in favor.

4. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update**

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Ms. Brunner submitted the GGE draft to the City of Keene and she is meeting with Ms. Chalice and Mr. Lamb this week to go over the draft so there may be changes. She said it underwent an internal review process with SWRCP and the draft was sent to the City by December 15 and nothing has changed since the last update. Vice Chair Hansel suggested having the greenhouse gas emissions report be a part of the retreat discussions. Chair Shedd agreed, however, she believes April would be a great time to disseminate information to the public. She suggested giving the City a deadline to look at draft and comment so that they could be ready by April. Mr. Dachowski suggested that it might be helpful to inform the media outlets in advance about the report to pique interest in PR arena. Chair Shedd there is already potential interest from news reporters.

5. Council response to CCP request re HB 114 and HB 592

Chair Shedd stated that several committee members attended and spoke at the PLD meeting on December 13 opposing House Bill 114 and 592. Chair Shedd said the PLD committee was very receptive to their comments and that full Council did vote to submit comment to legislature and bills will be voted today in Concord. Packet included a draft of the letter Ms. Chalice had prepared for the Mayor to sign. Vice Chair Hansel approved of the wording on the final draft. Chair Shedd said a number of citizens have submitted letters, calls and emails to legislators. Mr. Clark said he sent out bulk emails and received several positive responses and only two negative comments from the Liberty Coalition who are not in favor; however, there were more positive responses. Chair Shedd said he hopes that is a good indication of a positive outcome.

6. Review of CCP founding documents:

- a. Resolution Establishing CCP committee,
- b. Ordinance defining charge to CCP,
- c. Current mission statement,
- d. State definition of Energy Commission

Chair Shedd introduced Mr. Aperr Naadzenga, an Antioch University student interested in CCP. She handed out the Resolution for the City of Keene's founding documents and the mission statement for CCP. The packet also included the State RSA defining energy committees. She said the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign predates the State statute as it was founded in 2000 and the statute was created in 2009. She said the update to CCP's charge by City Ordinance was created in 2010 in response to the State statute so that CCP's charge would encompass the tasks of an energy committee. Chair Shedd said it would be helpful to look at the history of the committee before the retreat in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Clark stated that he understood that the charge was also created to reach out to homeowners and businesses not only municipal greenhouse gases and energy use. Chair Shedd agreed that CCP's energy committee charge is much broader and has included community scale energy. Vice Chair Hansel stated that the purpose of CCP is pretty broad, the communities adapt the capacity to the expected impacts of climate change and to protect the public health of the community. Mr. Clark stated that the City of Keene has gone a long way in terms of the

Honeywell study and now they are announcing an 800 kilowatt solar array on the municipal building on Marlboro Street so there is less room for the City to move in that direction than there is for the community. Chair Shedd said municipal sector accounts for only 3% so a huge chunk of Keene's energy use still needs to be worked on.

Mr. Clark suggested reaching out to other governmental bodies such as the school board would be helpful and they should discuss that more on the retreat. Mr. Pipp stated that being new to the committee, he views the documents as very informational and helpful in understanding the framework the City wants CCP to function within. He said he was happy to see that the City updated the 2005 charge in 2010 to include adaptive capacity because before that it was only asking CCP to deal with greenhouse gas emissions which will already have long term impacts. Mr. Pipp said as an energy commission, the charge is a bit limited in scope in terms of what CCP is currently doing, as it is asking CCP to research municipal energy use and costs and make recommendations pertaining to municipal energy plans and sustainable practices. He stated that he would like to hear more about what the committee has been considering with a new mission or purpose. Chair Shedd shared questions about how CCP should balance the parts of the task that are climate mitigation focused and those that are geared towards climate adaptation. As currently stated, she said the tasks are huge and there is no way for CCP to achieve all of them, so it is important to develop an energy plan and bring the work together with the existing Climate Action Plan. Chair Shedd asked members if they had any other thoughts on founding documents and encouraged them to bring documents to the retreat.

Vice Chair Hansel stated that during his time on the committee he has not seen a lot of climate adaptation work. He believes that adaptation is not as much a part of their charge as mitigation, and that the energy side should be prioritized. Ms. Brunner said instead they could try to pick the most strategic elements of both adaptation and mitigation when revisiting the Climate Action Plan in order to integrate adaptation and mitigation. Mr. Pipp suggested working with City departments on small marginal cost increases of infrastructural improvements or changes that could go a long way towards what the City wants to accomplish.

Vice Chair Hansel stated that the founding documents suggest that CCP is not solely an advisory committee to the City, as they are allowed to accept donations and advocate with the public. Chair Shedd agreed and suggested that eliminating the title "energy committee" could be liberating as well. Ms. Brunner pointed out that that CCP already falls under the designation of an energy committee so they are already eligible for benefits of an energy committee. Mr. Clark suggested coming up with a more recognizable name for committee. Mr. Pipp said there are some benefits to changing from a committee to a commission because the founding documents state that committees do not have non-profit status and cannot accept funds, whereas commissions can accept funding. Chair Shedd they will ask Ms. Chalice to clarify the City's distinction between committee and commission.

Chair Shedd segued into planning for the retreat with Mr. Webler who will be facilitating the two hour retreat on January 18, 2018. She asked members if reviewing the documents has geared them towards specific topics for discussion that can be addressed at the retreat. Mr. Clark said he liked the idea of framing City goals based on greenhouse gas emissions, as he has observed that the individual City departments have not necessarily been getting advice from groups that have

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looked at their recommendations. Chair Shedd said Mr. Lamoureux had suggested a check list for any decision Council is making about the climate impacts of decisions and ensuring impacts are positive. She said Ms. Chalice had shown the committee a check list for buildings in Dover as an example but as far as she knows, Keene has not replicated the checklist. Mr. Clark added that when executing tasks on the Master Plan, for example, where staff is supposed to apply the Complete Streets program, there really is no formalized check list that is adhered to. He suggested making a recommendation for check lists. Chair Hansel agreed that a good focus for the retreat is formalizing a policy for the City on energy- related decisions, applicable not only to the City functions but also the interface with the public- the planning board, site plan reviews, zoning boards- that would affect energy.

Chair Shedd also added the question of to what extent should CCP be focusing on policy related issues and how much on project-based efforts. Mr. Clark said it is important for the City to have an outside group to look at their operations from a bigger perspective, so perhaps they could do both. Ms. Brunner said she thinks that the impact of a policy is usually bigger than a project, especially given the committee's time and scope. For example, providing incentives for renewable energy, zoning, code would be impactful for the community but she also is concerned about the committee's lack of policy expertise to achieve those sorts of goals. Chair Shedd suggested that perhaps they consider recruiting other skill sets to the committee as they reframe the mission of the committee.

Mr. Webler asked solicited thoughts of a successful retreat from members. Mr. Clark replied he would like to see actionable goals created. Ms. Baum suggested defining who CCP is as a committee, what the charge is and the scope. Vice Chair Hansel suggested a name change for committee. Chair Shedd stated that last year Ms. Daniels created a "feasibility versus impact" chart which was helpful way to frame the process. Vice Chair Hansel also suggested revising the mission statement if needed. Ms. Baum asked if the City's request for a renewable energy plan is something CCP still wants to pursue. Vice Chair Hansel said achieving renewable energy goals was one of the main reasons for the retreat and perhaps they should explore how CCP would function as a committee if they wanted to go in that direction.

Chair Shedd said she would plan to meet more with Mr. Webler and Ms. Brianna Brand who a program director at New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association to discuss collaboration opportunities. Mr. Webler said he looked forward to working with the group and suggested members come with ideas of what is really important and perhaps what is a wrong direction to go in, which could help narrow the scope for the retreat. Chair Shedd suggested that if members have questions for Mr. Webler they email Ms. Chalice first.

Mr. Dachowski suggested that due to the limited scope of the committee, persuading the City government to putting time and resources into achieving goals could effectively increase the overall impact of committee. He recommended the City contract individuals to perform certain tasks that are specific to a professional. Vice Chair Hansel also suggested collaborating with groups that are doing similar work to enhance achievability of goals. Chair Shedd said that a secondary goal emerging from retreat last year was to pursue the thought of a City Sustainability Coordinator as stated in the Climate Action Plan and Master Plan. She said they could attempt to make an economic case to the City for hiring a part-time Sustainability Coordinator. Mr.

Dachowski suggested encouraging the City to consider that as part of a long-term goal. Ms. Brunner asked if CCP has the ability to raise money. Chair Shedd replied that Ordinance Nine states that they may raise money with City approval. Mr. Clark said CCP would have to ask permission from the City for raising money and funds would be routed to the City for distribution.

Mr. Naadznga shared with committee that he received an email from President of Chatham University in Germany asking what he thinks about climate action in the U.S. so perhaps this is something they can pursue at the retreat.

Vice Chair Hansel shared that in the past Antioch students conducted a study for his company into their environmental footprint. He said they put together a process for analyzing any organization's environmental footprint. He said this past fall his son updated the process and created a template that organizations could use, which could also serve to extend CCP's reach out into the community to companies wanting to monitor their own environmental footprints.

Ms. Baum shared that Badger has a similar template and they are currently sharing with other businesses about environmental footprints and are doing workshops. She said part of the reason a City Sustainability Coordinator is important is to prevent "reinventing the wheel" by different organizations and be more cost effective for the City. Chair Shedd replied they could put on a seminar to share the different models that are out there. Mr. Clark said perhaps just redefining the responsibilities of existing staff would be even more cost effective. Ms. Baum said it would be helpful to leave the retreat with a better understanding of the scope of the committee's charge, for example, is CCP a strategy, projects, advisory committee? Chair Shedd said in the past they have had working groups to work on separate issues, however, their efficacy has been limited to date. She said the committee is not limited to one hour a month and a good topic for retreat is to reassess that idea. Vice Chair Hansel reiterated that that is the reason collaboration with other organizations is a key to achieving goals. Ms. Brunner said she liked the work group structure but it did not have longevity.

Vice Chair Hansel shared that his company Filtrine is now using dry wood chips from Peterborough for heating. He said they burn cleanly and efficiently. Chair Shedd shared that Germany has an excess of renewable energy and were asking the public to use energy. Mr. Clark said that there is evidence that fracked gas in Keene can pose health hazards such as respiratory illness and even cancer. He said the City is granting franchise without comment, so if anyone has comment, perhaps they would put standards and limitations on any concerns so that they would be mitigated. Ms. Brunner invited everyone to Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation's Annual Meeting at 312 Marlborough Street. She said Steering Committee meeting is at 4 pm and Public meeting is at 5 pm. She said they will have a couple of speakers talking about sustainable transportation, including Ms. Tiffany Manion, Bicycle Mayor of Keene, and Mr. Phil Goff from Alta Planning and Design who will discuss Complete Streets and ways to reduce transportation impacts. Ms. Baum announced that Badger has been monitoring their waste stream and in their last assessment they are only sending 5% of their waste to landfills for incineration. They will also be holding a workshop.

CCP Retreat: Thursday, January 18 from 4:30-6:30 in Keene Library's Trustee's Room.

7. **Adjournment – Next Meeting, Wednesday, February 7, 2018**

Chair Shedd adjourned the meeting at 9:03 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker