

Energy Climate Action Committee Meeting
Minutes – 2/21/2023
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 7:03pm

Members Present: Michael DeChiara, Leslie Cerrier, Miriam Defant, Graeme Sephton, Zoe Weizenbaum and Gail Fleischaker.

Members Absent: Nate Heard

Updates

Michael: Becky sent in two ideas for MVP grant that Select Board approved. Michael and Becky will meet with Andrew (regional MVP representative) soon to get feedback on ideas.

Michael: Talked with chair of FINCOM (Ajay) about financing future projects. Michael will share meeting date so folks can join discussion.

Michael: Jill Buchanan reached out to Michael about getting UMASS interns to help with projects. Michael will have meeting with UMASS Energy Extension and Jill to discuss. Michael will share date so folks can join the meeting.

Eric Giordano of Regenerative Design Group presented

-RDG works with towns in MA with funding from MVP. Focuses on assessing the health of a given ecosystem and ways to improve community resilience.

-Eric pointed out the importance of building and maintaining soil organic carbon (SOC). There are many ecosystem benefits to building this (flood mitigation, disease resistance, improved water quality, carbon storage...etc).

-RDG creates maps of SOC to highlight areas that are important to: protect and reinforce, restore and transform, plan and manage for resilience and undergo intensive intervention.

-RDG helped create a bylaw for post construction soil health. They also use maps to argue for conservation efforts and to point out areas of ecological connectivity.

-RDG is currently working on creating “guides” for homeowners and institutions on best practices with regards to sustainable forest and “lawn and landscape” management.

-We could hire RDG to help us with some basic mapping or a more intensive assessment. Eric presented on some other RDG projects (i.e., in Bolton, Harvard, Devens and Deerfield). Within these projects specific sites were highlighted and designs and plans were drawn up for nature based solutions to issues within each site.

Graeme presented on importance of getting to net zero.

-Graeme spoke to the importance of lifestyle changes (i.e., turning down your thermostat) and moving off of the use of fossil fuels.

-Gail suggested promoting education around how to compost and why it is important.

-Leslie offered to teach a workshop of conserving resources while cooking.

More updates

Michael: A new Green Communities representative (Chris Mason) is coming to next meeting.

-Michael: Towns who have municipal light plant can't participate in CCA. The DPU makes this decision. A lawyer at DPU wants to talk to Donna McNichol so maybe we can still get it on annual town meeting warrant.

Minutes approval

Motion: Leslie moved to approve the Invasives Workgroup minutes of 1/2/2023. Zoe: second. Vote: Zoe-aye, Leslie-Aye, Gail-abstain, Graeme-abstain, Miriam-abstain, Michael-abstain.

Motion: Zoe moved to approve the Stormwater Workgroup minutes of 1/5/2023. Miriam: second. Vote: Zoe-aye, Miriam-aye, Leslie-abstain, Gail-abstain, Michael-abstain, Graeme-abstain.

Motion: Gail moved to approve the Solar Workgroup minutes of 1/9/2023. Graeme: second. Vote: Miriam-aye, Michael-aye, Graeme-aye, Miriam-abstain, Zoe-abstain, Leslie- abstain.

Motion: Michael moved to approve the minutes of 10/11/2022. Miriam: second. Minor edits were considered. Vote: Miriam-aye, Graeme-aye, Zoe-aye, Michael-aye. Leslie-aye. **Motion:**

Gail moved to approve the minutes of 12/13/2022. Leslie: second. Vote: Zoe-aye, Michael-aye, Graeme-aye, Miriam-aye, Leslie-aye, Gail-aye.

Confirmed next meeting date for 3/21/2023.

Meeting Close: 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted by Zoe Weizenbaum.