

Hull Clean Energy Climate Action Committee
Meeting Minutes
Nov. 13, 2023
(via Zoom)

Participants

Bruce Edgren, J.D. Kaplan, Cara O’Keefe, Kathleen, Leslie Taylor, Jake Vaillancourt (Chair), Judeth Van Hamm, Lucinda Wykle-Rosenberg (Secretary), Mike Schmitt

The meeting convened at 7:15 after a brief delay. Our committee does not have a town-approved Zoom account to date.

Agenda

Restructuring committee

Approval of minutes

2023 Annual Report

Update from Brianna Bennett on sustainability recommendations for Hull

Restructuring Committee

We had to postpone restructuring of our committee as not every appointed member was in attendance.

Minutes

Rick sent out minutes from the October meeting. Jake will forward those to Lucinda and we will need to approve those at the next meeting.

2023 Annual Report

Incorporate as much of Brianna’s report as possible into our 2023 Annual Report

Brianna’s Update and Walkthrough of Presentation for Select Board/Town Manager

Brianna (Harvard grad student volunteering to put together a climate action plan for Hull) has produced a 77-page report. She will send us the draft. The town leadership wants to lean into climate change specifically rather than sustainability more broadly. She has narrowed it down to 5 key recommendations:

- 1) Greenhouse Gas Reduction (GHG) Strategy
 - a. Do a GHG inventory to establish a baseline to set targets with a roadmap for how to get to 100% renewable energy goal by 2030. Our committee could volunteer to help complete this.
- 2) Time of use rate (institute this). A rate study has already been requested.
- 3) Internship Program
 - a. Focus on workforce development for sustainability projects
 - b. Can attract grant money for those projects
- 4) Create a waste reduction committee

- a. Focuses on recycling, reduction of municipal solid waste, methane from landfill
 - b. Landfills in Massachusetts will fill up by 2030
- 5) Communication Plan
- a. Draft a mission statement for the town with climate/sustainability in it
 - b. “The wave of the future” for example
 - c. The town would like to hire a communications director
 - d. Public education

Discussion

As part of this climate/sustainability plan, we need to determine who does what by when. CECAC may be needed to help volunteer time for the GHG baseline data. Rick Mattila did some work to update this three years ago.

Hingham has posted their Climate Action Plan online.

Judeth is interested in working on communication as far as organizing all Hull neighborhoods and stakeholders. She has a meeting planned for January to discuss this and asked if people could attend. Brianna asked what role the town would play, and Judeth said it should include all committees. Lucinda wanted to make sure that we are working together and not duplicating efforts [by the town Select Board], and she sees a role for CECAC in helping with the GHG data.

J.D. Kaplan said he thinks there is very little money for workforce development but likes this part of recommendation.

Brianna said that she would love to see an intern work on beach erosion and do a story map, similar to the Hampton Circle project.

Kathleen said in terms of communication, all residents need support for information on rebates, etc. She said that people may not know that a heat pump does not heat your basement, so your pipes can freeze without a source of heat. She also recommended having part of the *Hull Times* dedicated to climate change info. Lucinda mentioned we have been doing articles for the paper on solar, heat pumps, rebates, etc.

Brianna wants to make sure rebates are applied to things that have the greatest impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

J.D. said it is important to have a point of contact for information. This was the town manager for the Hull Light plant. Brianna said Hull has an open submission form on the town website to post things and the fire chief does a lot of the town’s communication. Hull needs a more modern website with a better search function.

Jake said one thing the town could do is to do away with private waste haul system and have the town provide that service (to improve recycling/waste reduction), and Brianna said that did come up in discussions.

New Business

Judeth is scheduling a meeting to improve networking/communication on Jan. 29

J.D. mentioned EV battery systems as being important to reduce dependence and strain on the power grid. They are becoming more sophisticated and a longer-term solution. This has been piloted in Vermont. Jake agreed a more resilient grid system that relies more on green energy, and customers can charge when there is less demand on the system using software via smart phones.

Action Steps

- Jake will forward Brianna's report to us
- Schedule joint meeting with town Select Board before March

Next Meeting

*Jan. 22 at 7 pm in-person at Town Hall

**Note: This meeting was rescheduled for Jan. 17 at 7pm.*

Minutes approved on Jan. 17, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucinda Wykle-Rosenberg, Secretary
CECAC