

Hull Clean Energy Climate Action Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2023 (via Zoom)

Attendees (Committee Members): Mark Kohn, Rick Mattila, Jake Vaillancourt, Lucinda Wykle-Rosenberg

Other Attendees: Brianna Bennett, Eva Das, J.D. Kaplan, Chris Krahforst (guest presenter), Kelsey Long, Irwin Nesoff, Mike Schmitt, Leslie Taylor, Steve Wenner, Kathleen Wolfe

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

Approved February 2023 minutes

Agenda:

- Approve minutes from February, 2023
- Interfacing with the Climate Adaptation and Conservation Commission and Working Group
- Annual Report
- Plan of Action for 2023
- Hull2030.com website update
- Hull Times articles
- New Business
- Old Business
- Action Steps
- Next meeting date

Summary of Discussion

We had our first article published in *Hull Times* regarding CECAC. The second article will be the 2nd or 3rd week of April on solar.

Suggestions for next articles:

* Energy audits

* How business community can help achieve town goals

Jake suggested waiting to collect comments from various members of the Chamber of Commerce. Brianna said the home energy assessment article might be good and recommends including incentives (federal, etc.). Jake is willing to write outline and handoff to J.D. Kaplan with assistance from Brianna.

Kathleen commented on disposal of fabric (Bay State textiles) and wants to have a pickup site (not sure who suggested) and better recycling in town in general. Steve said Cohasset and Hull claim to have collection bins, but maybe try to get bin at the transfer station. The Hull bin does exist at the high school said Kathleen. She will send info to Jake.

Irwin mentioned the Select Board screening committee is looking for two people in search for town manager

Chris Krahforst, Climate Adaptation and Conservation Commission Presentation

Everything is on the Town of Hull website

He sees us as thinking globally and acting locally, and they are focused on a Roadmap for Hull to adapt to changing climate (resiliency). Chris spoke of the example of the Hampton Circle analysis of alternatives (documenting impact there). They are also developing a plan for Kadish Ave. (the berm has migrated and probably will be the 2nd neighborhood adaptation roadmap).

Their Working Group is discussing sea level rise in the northeastern US (NOAA projections) with Sarah Das (Eva's daughter) who works at Woods Hole.

The Working Group is trying to do better monitoring (road closures, sea wall and documenting impacts). Anyone can participate. Phone app that police, fire and sewer depts can use to report issues. They will use the data and observations when applying for grants to demonstrate the impacts of sea level rise/climate change. They are currently getting together a FEMA grant for the Nantasket sea wall. The design and permitting are already taken care of and they are now trying to get federal money for it. There are some big projects listed on their website.

The Climate Adaptation and Conservation Commission coordinates with MASS Coastal Management and Woods Hole is interested in deploying sensors around town as part of pilot study to use data to address issues. They also appeal to elected boards and commissions for policy changes.

FEMA flood maps are in revision now (Plymouth county has shifted to next month) and the county needs to appoint a flood plains manager that Chris has been serving as. This provides opportunity to our committee [to suggest policies]. GIS data layers available to any planners/planning board/conservation/ anyone reviewing plans ability to look at projected flood impacts. Northeast sea levels to rise 1.2 to 1.8 feet by 2050.

The Town of Hull Community Resilience Building Workshop report from Feb. 2019 is on the website. We participate in the CRS program. Hull gets a 5% discount for every rating we achieve via FEMA. We are at 7 (15% discount) on insurance rates. This is the best rating any municipality has been able to achieve in MASS. We have to have evacuation routes, etc. The dunes along the beach is part of the mitigation plan for healthy beach and flood protection. The Commission is working to resolve the open section in Dunes on Beach Ave and smaller private path issues. Dunes at A street are also to mitigate flooding. There are a lot of issues and litigation. Some residents say they have ownership. One litigant stepped away because it is likely they wouldn't be successful. On Phipps Street, private patios on Dune. Commission received grant to fill those in with Dune. The abutter to the patio appealed and it went to DEP. They sided with Commission. Ownership is in litigation. It might take a year to resolve.

The Commission just received FEMA money for a hazard mitigation redraft, including the Hampton Circle area and improving access there during flooding, home elevation assistance

(3/4 of cost). The DPW barn and light plant are on edge of water and will be flooded with more frequency and the town knows we need to address this. Managed or planned retreats in some areas are under discussion. State reached out to permit and design one of offshore sites for sand renourishing near the DCR lot. This was part of the permit to put rocks there.

Leslie asked if anyone is tracking the cost of all the work we are doing related to flooding? Chris said they have to do that with FEMA dollars. Chris would like to have a grant manager to help write grants.

Beach grass planting is March 25 or 26, depending on weather.

Ian MacDonald is the new Conservation administrator.

Update from Brianna Bennett

Brianna went through 27 town Climate Action Plans. She highlighted 12 that particularly focus on both climate action and resiliency. We can pull goals from those and give objectives for each topic. She will send these out to our committee. She doesn't have the Hingham survey results yet. She met with Martin Pillsbury and is gathering data.

March 30 is the joint meeting between Hingham MLP and Hull MLP. We will meet jointly with HMLP sometime after that, perhaps April.

Goals

+ Add replacing wind turbine/renewables—keep this front and center with the town

New Business

South Shore Ecofest is May 20 on the Cohasset Common. A table for Hull will be there if CECAC wants to have a presence there. Let Brianna know if we plan to be there.

Next Meeting Date

Monday, April 17th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.