

Approved minutes
(VIRTUAL) MEETING OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE

Monday, February 10, 2025

7:00 pm

Remote Access

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/emt-fgzc-yhf>

Or dial: (US) +1 475-222-5601 PIN: 701 730 026#

In attendance:

Attendance:

Molly Cochran

Michael Horan

Laura Gunn

James Conlon

Rachel Lazerus

Aisha Oloyede-Edward

1. Welcome Motion: Motion to open the meeting made by Mr. Horan, seconded by Mr. Conlon: meeting officially begins at 7:02 after a unanimous roll-call vote.

2. Review of Minutes: Mr. Conlon made a motion to accept the January 27th minutes as amended, Ms. Oloyede-Edward seconded: minutes approved by unanimous roll-call vote with Dr. Gunn abstaining.

3. Sustainable Sharon Coalition - Community Conversation February 11th: Ms. Cochran announced a zoom conversation happening on February 11th by the Sustainable Sharon Coalition and promised to send the rest of the committee the slides.

4. MAPC update: Ms. Cochran and Ms. Lazerus have been attending the biweekly meetings. They are on track to give us the deliverables in December. MAPC is planning on hosting an exhibition that could be hosted at the library and/or the high school, and recommends the committee start coming up with more proposed suggestions. The climate equity panel

discussion with other committees and town officials was very successful and we plan to have more sessions where we can talk about specific solutions and hear people out.

5. South School update: Ms. Cochran talked to 10-12 people at the high school council meeting the previous week and said people were very receptive. The special town meeting voted in favor of the new energy-efficient and sustainable elementary school by higher margins than the previous Town Meetings. Ms. Lazerus mentioned the Town Manager's recent Facebook post about the twelve water mains breaking and connecting that to January's earthquake, as earthquakes are also an effect of climate change: only pipes that were sixty years old broke, while all the pipes that had been recently replaced as part of an infrastructure upgrade had survived, and this is an important reason for infrastructure upgrade.

6. SMAC Programming: Ms. Cochran asked for ideas for the CAP committee could use to build programming on SMAC. Ms. Lazerus suggested David Walsh's Around Town and offered to reach out.

7. March messaging: Ms. Cochran asked the committee what the committee should do for its next message. Ms. Lazerus suggested solar would be a good idea, because then people would have solar panels in time for the summer when it's most efficient. Mr. Horan suggested meeting with Colleen Doherty, executive director of the housing authority, about solar distribution and whether the housing authority would be interested in that because of the savings. He also noted that things will be shifting because of changes in the federal government's funding priorities: Ms. Lazerus will only share from state websites.

8. Other business that cannot be anticipated: Dr. Gunn brought up a Facebook post by Tamisha Civil on behalf of the Neponset Watershed Association asking for feedback on a municipal vulnerability planning grant they'd been granted and noted that it was a missed opportunity for us to have been involved with this outreach. She also brought up some of the negative responses at the perceived fearmongering.

Mr. Conlon requested that we make it known to the Neponset Watershed Association that we recommend that they make the culverts meet stream crossing standards that will allow for wildlife passage and fish being able to go upstream which will improve the local biodiversity. Ms. Cochran requested that Mr. Conlon send her a three or four sentence email which she can send to MAPC to include in the climate action plan. Mr. Conlon noted that people who have heard of the Municipality Vulnerability Planning Grant with the Neponset Watershed Association might not understand why we're also doing a Climate Action Plan. Dr. Gunn interjected that she thought that some of the framing of the NWA's survey might have been too extreme by focusing on extreme weather and not on how to clear storm drains or maintain their house with the risk of flooding. Ms. Oyoleded-Edward noted that someone on the Facebook

group had complained about the NWA mentioning flooding because Stoughton is 72m above sea-level, and the NWA rep pointed out that we're part of the coastal storm drain system. Ms. Lazarus said that the timing of the post had been bad because of the relatively normal weather they'd been having that year, as opposed to the wildfire smoke in the summer of 2023 or the earthquake a few days later. Mr. Conlon noted an area we need to know more about is flood plain management, and one way we can be relevant right now is to be involved and make recommendations in favor of low-impact development best management practices. Mr. Conlon also requested that people attend the February 20th (later moved to February 27th) meeting of the conservation committee to lend support to the Town Planner's and the Conservation Committee's recommendations.

9. Public Comment (name/precinct) – n/a

10. Adjournment: Mr. Horan made a motion to end the meeting, Mr. Conlon seconded, motion passed by unanimous roll-call vote, and meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Next meeting on Feb 24th at 7:00

approved 2/24