

**MINUTES: MEETING OF THE STOUGHTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
COMMITTEE, MONDAY JULY 18, 2023.**

Present:

(Members):

Molly Cochran

Laura Gunn

Michael Horan

James Conlan

Aisha Oloyede-Edward

Rachel Lazerus

Janet Weinstein

(Advisory):

Kathy Stanley

Following the opening of the meeting, each member introduced themselves.

The Chair briefly introduced relevant Open Meeting law.

Election of officers

Chair: Molly Cochran nominated by Laura Gunn, seconded by Michael Horan, elected by unanimous vote.

Vice Chair: Laura Gunn nominated by Molly Cochran, seconded by Rachel Lazerus, elected by unanimous vote.

Secretary: Michael Horan, nominated by Laura Gunn, second by John Malley, elected by unanimous vote.

Presentation by Kathy Stanley, Energy Manager of Stoughton (and several other communities). Ms. Stanley summarized the state of Energy in Stoughton:

- Awaiting a \$200,000 green community grant for phase II of improving climate systems at Town Hall. Looking for grants to upgrade other older buildings.
- Locked natural gas rate for town.
- Aggregate electric very successful. Started high, but lower now. Overall savings for residents. Should see stability for 3 years.
- GAP Grant – EPA for water and sewer – replacing 4 pump station motors and 1 condenser. Town contributing 10-15%.
- Had a Green grant for EV charging stations but it stalled. Needed infrastructure that was not covered by grant (\$70K) even though we had the \$15K for charging stations. Had to give money back so we could get the green community grant for town hall. Will look at other EV charging station grants. Will be including EV in our CAP report.
- Renews America's Schools Grant– Funding by the infrastructure bill – any energy efficiency project but priority given to eliminating fossil fuels. Applying in December to convert Wilkins

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School to electric from steam. Currently doing a strategic electrification study – paid for by the electric company.

- Grant being applied for will include a number of schools probably totaling \$5M or more.
- Goal is electrifying the schools and town buildings to replace the inefficient heating systems they currently have.
- Looking at long-term effects of having an electrical grid that uses both renewable sources as well as zero emission sources (such as nuclear energy).
- Idea is to reduce and/or eliminate carbon footprint.
- Solar arrays. As a town we should not own the arrays. This is out of our element. Support development of the arrays and buy the electricity but don't own them.
- We should as a town be setting goals such as charging stations.
- We have to look at process for writing grants. Some will need professional grant writing and have to look at getting funding to assist in writing grants. Cathy Stanley does some of the grants – including Green Grants, GAP Grants, and Renew America's Schools grant.
- Look to great partnership arrangements with other towns like Sharon and Canton

Discussion ensued:

Mr. Conlon provided the Committee info on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grants

Ms. Stanley is providing Ms. Cochran with info on New England Energy Efficiency Partnership. Aisha will assist on this.

Ms. Oloyede-Edward said we need education and outreach to residents to better understand energy use and realities.

Mr. Conlon asked about an RFP to have someone to help with our goals once we come up with a plan. Maybe look at for Spring Town Meeting.

The Committee agreed that we need a mission statement for CAPC.

Ms. Cochran advised that Town would be in charge of a CAPC website/page. Committee would provide the info.

The Committee will work with the Energy and Sustainability Committee and get what plans they have already developed.

There is a plan from 2013 that the Committee we can use as a base. Ms. Cochran will get a PDF copy out.

Ms. Lazerus will provide an overview of the plans we have from other times.

Future meetings will likely be in hybrid format.

Next meeting Monday July 31st at location to be determined.

Next agenda – discuss schools and possibly a student representative.

Also review Executive order 594 for next meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Horan, passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Minutes taken by John Malley, edited by Michael Horan.