

**MINUTES: MEETING OF THE STOUGHTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
COMMITTEE, MONDAY JULY 31, 2023.**

This meeting was a hybrid: in-person at Town Hall-Fitzpatrick Room, and remotely using Google Meets webinar format.

In Attendance:

Molly Cochran, Chair
Laura Gunn, Vice-Chair
John Malley
Rachel Lazerus (remote)
Aisha Oloyede-Edward(remote)
Michael Horan
James Conlon

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Motion to open the meeting by Mr. Malley, seconded by Mr. Horan, Motion passed unanimously.

Mission of the Committee

Ms. Cochran summarized the Article submitted to and passed by Town Meeting, emphasizing the twin elements of mitigation and adaptation

Ms. Gunn noted that our mission needs to consist of actionable agenda, focusing on the urgent need to manage climate; both current and impending issues; and issues specific to Stoughton, in an effort to bring the community up to standards other towns have met.

Mr. Horan suggested the need for more carrot than stick, emphasizing the upsides to any recommendations.

Ms. Lazerus suggested framing recommendations in the context of investments.

Mr. Conlon suggested an evaluation of lifestyle trends that could result in decreased use of fossil fuels, working to improve healthy lifestyles, educating the community in regard to sustainability, and soliciting input.

Laura noted that we are less concerned with what individuals can and should do, but rather, with what we can do as a town.

Proposals for structuring meetings and the work of the Committee

Mr. Conlon stated that we need to set goals, and that this will require professional assessments. He suggested, as an initial goal, a request for proposals from local energy consultants, and, as a second goal, establishing charging stations.

Ms. Gunn noted the importance of public input.

Ms. Cochran brought up grant funding, and noted the importance of consulting with key stakeholders.

Mr. Conlon suggested that there are people who would voluntarily consult with us

Ms. Cochran proposed creating a very general outline, with subheads, and that individuals on the committee could focus on specific issues, with an eye towards what other towns have done and what might or might not work here in Stoughton. This would mean identifying key sectors then having individuals research on each.,

Short-term vs. long-term objectives

Ms. Laura proposed using a “High/Low”-Impact/Effort rubric.

Discussion ensued as to focusing on the town as a whole and/or on individuals. Mr. Horan noted that Governor Baker’s Executive Order 594 was titled “Leading by Example,” as it applied to state agencies only, but with the idea that government action would prompt the private sector to do the same voluntarily. Ms. Lazarus pointed out that the more government does, the more feasible it becomes for individuals to do the same. In regard to financing, Mr. Conlon suggested looking for corporate sponsorships and reward-based plans. Ms. Lazerus suggested that high-impact project will be best. She will report back on other funding opportunities.

Climate Mitigation vs. Climate Adaptation/Resilience (Continuity Management)

Consensus: we need to address both

Discussion re 2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment

Ms. Cochran briefly summarized key points.

Discussion re Gov. Baker Exec. Order 584

Ms. Cochran inquired as to the last time Stoughton devised a Master Plan. Mr. Malley will look into the matter.

Other Business

Ms. Cochran advised that we should have representatives attend the Campanelli and South School open meetings.

Action Items

Ms. Burns: draft mission statement

Mr. Malley: unearth and distribute Town's Master Plan

Ms. Cochran: look into grants

Mr. Malley: determine deadlines for submission of Articles for TM Warrant

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 by unanimous consent.

Minutes drafted by Michael Horan