

Swampscott Climate Action Plan Committee Meeting Minutes (Final)

Tuesday February 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Received by Town Clerk
March 27, 2024 8:00am

Town Hall 1st Floor Conference Room and Virtual Meeting (details below)

As set forth above, this meeting/hearing of the Swampscott Climate Action Plan Committee will be held in person and/or virtually as provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend

Attendees: Lilly, Sam, Gerri, Martha, Sierra, Neil, Suzanne, Zachary Claussen, Richard Frenkel, Ryan Hale, Dave Zalanowski

Minutes:

1. Review/approval of special joint [meeting minutes from November 29, 2023](#)
 - o VOTE: Motion to approve: Sierra, 2nd: Lilly, All Approve
2. Review/approval of [meeting minutes from January 8, 2023](#)
 - o VOTE: Motion to approve: Sierra, 2nd: Gerri, All Approve
3. Climate Leader and Specialized Energy Code
 - o Review [presentation](#) on Swampscott becoming an official "Climate Leader" to be presented to the Select Board on Feb 7. Sent to the SB, but we're not on for presenting.
 - i. Changed language in the presentation to more accurately reflect the difference between stretch code and specialized code.
 - ii. Q: how long from voting to approve stretch code vs implementation
 1. Recommending July implementation to align different code timelines
 - iii. Q: Can we add in more numbers/examples of success in other communities?
 1. Martha: We don't have the data because the program is brand new, the grants don't exist yet, etc.
 2. Neil: We don't know the amount of funding or what it will fund. But explaining that it's similar to Green Communities in that it allows you to apply for special grants that only folks who are part of the program can access.
 - a. Martha: dig up a list of grants that we got via GC to use as a reference point
 - iv. Q: What communities have adopted the specialized stretch code?
 1. Salem just adopted.

2. Public outreach is helpful because it also allows you to get a preview of what questions are likely to come up at town meeting in addition to other benefits.
3. [List of towns](#)
 - Plans for Socializing/Community Meeting
 - i. Feb 27th B129 meeting room reserved for a community meeting for public feedback
 1. Needs promotion once public
 - ii. Martha to see: if the GC coordinator Dylan is available for the meeting or town meeting
 - Timing of town meeting and adopting stretch code, Vinnin Sq development, Hadley ReUse
4. Resilience Plans, related past/future grants, Harbor and Waterfront, Hazard Mitigation
 - Presentation to Select Board on Feb 7
 - Work in progress and just got finished today, will present to Selectboard
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1qNFYCNWV3vWSW9a-D2ZyYqZeFaQjDBA/edit#slide=id.g2b58814e39d_1_10
 - Context:
 - i. At the last town meeting, there were many questions and comments about climate impacts, flooding, etc. so SB asked that all the resilience reports and compile what we've done and plan to do
 - ii. Many opportunities to act on these resiliency measures because there's community interest and energy, especially after the recent flooding.
 - Review presentation
 - i. From Resilient Swampscott Plan, there are two action buckets: 1) reduce emissions and 2) mitigate impacts (flood prevention etc)
 1. Under each are the committees, grants, and plans
 - ii. Flood risk model 2030, 2050
 - iii. Heat islands - threat to health with heat-related injury/illness
 - iv. Hazard Mitigation plan (10 years old now)
 - v. Resilience & vulnerability focus area of Resilient Swampscott Plan
 - vi. Green Communities - emissions reduction actions
 1. 1.3 M in grants over a 10year period
 2. GC 2.0 is more focused on emission reduction instead of energy efficiency
 3. Ryan Hale: Placeholder (~100k) every year to execute municipal facility energy efficiency projects. ex) converting HVAC systems to high energy efficiency projects in ancillary buildings (pump house).

- a. The town is funding, but it's to ensure the spending is authorized, grant matching is available at the start, and there are also reimbursement grants available for work completed.

vii. Municipal Vulnerability Program Grants

viii. Municipal Projects

1. Seawall status

- a. Discussion: The town only owns so much of the seawalls. Private seawall owners don't need to maintain. Folks looking into a new bylaw that would require folks to maintain their seawall.
 - i. Kleinfelder report: Seawalls can lead to more harm than good due to erosion. Seawall or Beach?
- b. Kings Beach seawall was updated so that DCR would take over the maintenance.
- c. Doug: Add note that we need to explore other/additional actions
 - i. Neil: Nature-based solutions and managed retreat should go on this slide.

1. Also mentioned in the Klienfelder report

2. Fish house, pump station, police station, Hawthorne Property

- a. Suzanne/Doug: Hawthorn property probably doesn't need to be on this list due to the elevation

ix. Relevant committees and overview of current activities

x. Additional grant opportunities

- 1. TONS of money available, but we need a dedicated person to field these grants.
 - a. Neil: Money numbers can be deceiving, it's not meant for towns in many cases and would need to work through the state.
- 2. Neil: CZM Coastal resilience grants are regularly offered and should be added to this slide
- 3. Gov Healey announced a new coastal resiliency approach where communities work together
 - a. Create coastal districts, and provide guidance and collaboration. No new money.

xi. 2015 Hazard mitigation plan

- 1. Gerri - Where are the signatures? Usually there's folks from different departments signed on

2. Martha: Fire Dept is in charge of it. Now there are requirements for them to get input from CAPC.
 - a. Twice yearly meeting with stakeholders to discuss the plan?
 - b. There's a grant to update the plan this year.
 - c. Marzie has been talking about this, the grant money has arrived, but haven't seen anything organized to discuss how to spend etc.
 - i. Grant money to hire MAPC to do the work of updating the plan?
5. Review [Feedback to Tree Committee](#) on recommended goals (requested by Feb 15)
 - o Martha: Need to make the document viewable to anyone with the link
 - o Generally, took our Climate Action Plan goals and expanded it to add trees.
 - o There is a whole section on trees in the town bylaws. Some things in the recommended goals are already covered by our town bylaws.
 - i. Q: Does the bylaw reach to residential/private trees or just street trees?
 1. Suzanne, just the street/public trees
 2. There's another by-law in the works that are for private trees that have a unique community benefit (very mature trees, etc). Not ready for the town meeting, but good to reference.
 - o VOTE: Gerri moves to approve, Sierra 2nds, All in favor.
6. Review suggested updates to CAPC website ([draft website](#))
 - o The published website is bare-bones
 - o By focus area
 - i. What are we doing?
 - ii. What can you do?
 - iii. General Resources
 - o Present the Resilient Swampscott Plan as an embedded PDF?
 - o The committee moves to get it up and iterate changes as needed.
7. Status update on Capital Projects using ARPA funds (Doug)
 - o Lots of things in motion, but trying to get it settled what the funds will be used for.
No official updates
8. Other business
 - o Heritage Trail Signs status (Thomas Starr - Suzanne, Sierra)
 - i. Have a meeting on the 16th
 - ii. Narrow down the list at all?
 1. Sierra: ok to give a fuller list and have Thomas make suggestions on what to cut
 - o [List of resources compiled by Lilly](#)

- Review [Airtable](#) status (Review high-priority initial implementation projects)
 - CAPC Name and Charter - did Select Board review? (Doug)
 - i. Not yet.
 - ii. Can change the mission statement now to what we want? Are we in the town charter at all? It's older?
 - 1. We were asked to make suggested changes
 - 2. SB needs approval for the name change
 - 3. Mission statement can be updated on the website now
 - Vinnin Sq Guidelines
 - RS posting to next monthly newsletter
 - ConCom Flood Protection brochure and proposed bylaw
 - i. Gerri - conservation commission is working on this
 - Outreach and Tabling events
 - Ideas on utilizing Revise money - Greenscapes, Bike Lane protectors, Tide Gauge
 - i. Money flows through REC
 - ii. Klienfelder's report recommends installing a tide gauge
 - 1. Accurately measures the sea level,
 - iii. Sam and Lilly are most excited about the bike lane protectors
 - 1. Lilly will look into if this is a feasible thing for the committee to work on.
 - Newsletter
 - i. What do we want to write about
 - 1. Energy efficiency
 - 2. Community Power
 - 3. Flood Mapping: 2050 flood map
 - a. Lilly and Martha to work on it together.
 - 4. Action Item: Think on what topics we could
 - 5.
9. Next meeting
- March 5th at 6:30
 - 1st Tuesday of the month as a normal cadence.
10. Major praise to Martha!

VOTE: Motion to adjourn by Neil, 2nd by Sam. All Approved. 7:53

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