

Swampscott Climate Action & Plan Committee

Meeting Minutes 11/7/23 6:30pm

Meeting was held in person at the Swampscott Town Hall (3rd Floor Conference Room) and virtually on Microsoft Teams

Present: Members of Committee: Martha Schmitt, Geralyn Falco, Lilly Worthley, Doug Thompson, Sam Snitkovsky, Diana Eddowes, Sierra Munoz, Suzanne Hale, Neal Duffy
Members of the public: Max Kasper, Facilities Manager

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm.

Minute Taker: Geralyn Falco

1. Review/approval of meeting minutes from October 10, 2023
 - Neal moved to approve the minutes of October 10, 2023.
 - Sierra seconded, unanimously approved.
2. CAPC reappointment is up in December:
 - Martha reminded everyone that reappointment for the committee are in December and to contact Diana Marchese, if she has not already contacted you
3. Get CAPC input on priorities for Capital Projects using ARPA funds:
 - Doug has proposed to the Select Board to spend ½ ARPA funds on pipes; \$500K on climate action; remainder on ???
 - Martha shared her screen with list of potential projects to get funding
 - We discussed order of projects and the projects themselves
 - We removed funding for solar panels for new elementary school as Max Kasper updated Committee on that:
 - solar panels were not part of original school design
 - MSBA does not fund solar panels on new schools
 - we were always planning to make school “solar ready” and pushed hard for that
 - we are in the process of getting conduits from roof to box below & structural framing for panels on roof
 - We are engaged with solar company (Select Energy) which is a power operated preferred company
 - we may get ~\$1.5M from National Grid, as well as incentives \$ from geothermal heating and energy use intensity (EUI) for the building
 - funding for the photovoltaic panels comes from credits (tax incentive credits; direct pay...which is federal tax incentive now available to municipalities...\$10K)
 - Committee asked about including Clarke School & Middle School projects for major electrification (as well as the High School, Town Hall, Library and Fire Station)
 - Max said that Fire Station is good place for HVAC improvements

- Sam commented that many items on list have to do with cars and the Climate Action Plan calls for “walk-able, cycling, pedestrian friendly Swampscott”, so bicycle protection was moved up higher on list
 - Diana suggested including projects from each focus area of the Climate Plan;
 - Should we include upgrading Sewer Pumps Station? (Max said that is in Capital Plan now for next year or the year after)
 - Resilient infrastructure (elevating & protecting critical equipment /assets) was added to list
 - Town-wide composting incentives was added to list
 - List was finalized and will be submitted to Select Board
4. Review Vinnin Square Design Guidelines, are these sufficient with Resilient Swampscott Plan
- Martha shared screen with Guidelines and discussion took place
 - Discussion about guidelines vs standards
 - Conservancy submitted comments and Tree Committee has concerns
 - With many comments/discussion, we ultimately decided to have committee send Martha comments by date certain (next Friday) so we can make timely submission (early December)
5. DOER Green Communities – additional Grant Opportunities
- additional grant opportunities requires adding Climate Leader & meeting 4 items (2 of which are being done now)
 - Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) Grant (\$15-25K, due November 17) – Martha signed up for this grant
6. Review Airtable status (Review high priority initial implementation projects)
7. Other business
- CAPC Name & Charter – did Select Board review (Doug)
 - Sunday Nov 19th Farmer’s Market – Tabling – Martha to have table and asks anyone who will attend to help out
 - RS Table? Cover Focus Areas
 - Community Power Campaign
 - Update on Community First Power – no update
 - Suggestion for RS posting monthly newsletter – not discussed
 - ConCom Flood Protection brochure and proposed bylaw – not discussed
 - Outreach and Tabling events
 - Senior Center update
 - Anchor Food Pantry
 - Website updates – Add resources section with helpful information or links:
 - Lilly added RESOURCES spreadsheet that Committee members can/should make addition to
 - Ideas on utilizing Revise money – not discussed
 - Outstanding items
 - Marshall’s, Whole Foods – EV charging

- Diana share information on community solar with this group – next meeting?
- Misc: Announcements:
 - Climate Change Walkabout with Debbie Friedmont & Drew Russo at Red Rock, Lynn Nov. 29th at 6:30 pm
 - Heritage Trail Signs – QR codes on them to tell about the history/important information of site – Neal to set up meeting with Thomas Starr & others interested (Martha, Suzanne, Sierra)
 - Lilly to meet with Marzie & Adam regarding Bike Lane Masterplan
 - Lilly added RESOURCES spreadsheet on google page; CAPC should add resources with links

Action Items:

- CAPC share comments to Martha on Vinnin Sq Design Guidelines
- CAPC add resources to google page, include links

Doug moved to adjourn the meeting.
Sierra seconded, unanimously approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm at Town Hall