



## Harvard Climate Initiative Committee

### Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2024

The meeting convened at 7.33 pm on Zoom

Members: Present: Ellen Sachs Leicher, Sharon McCarthy, Christiane Turnheim, Rich Marcello, Lucy Wallace, Staci Donahue,

Guests: Rebecca Sewall (Historical Commission), Jeff Legros (MRPC)

1 - Public Comments: Jeff Legros from MRPC – Here to announce new initiative for Climate Pollution Reduction planning from EPA. Asked if Harvard could host the kick off and public workshop for community engagement at the end of January. MRPC knows that Harvard has a very active committee so wanted to use us for the launching pad to try and get the word out. We (Harvard) would just need to host. Ellen asked ‘what’s the topic?’. MRPC response: “waste management, ag, building, transportation, electricity” and explained that the format was an opening presentation, then break out tables to each topic. Looking for feedback to see what areas need work and have public interest in the areas of pollution reduction? They plan for a kids table as well as they are trying to make it family friendly. HCIC – January seems tight as far as timing. HCIC asked how long session lasted? MRPC said 2.5 to 3 hours sessions were had in the CMRPC (Cent Mass Reg Planning Commission) areas that have already started this work. HCIC will be getting back to MRPC with if we can help out. HCIC: If we can’t host in January, could we host another date?. MRPC said the short-term planning sessions are to be completed by end of January 2024. The longer-term goals/sessions that come out of these Jan ’24 session work will be later on in 2024.

2 – Introduction: Ellen introduced Rebecca Sewall from the Harvard Historical Commission who is listening in and looking to be possibly the liaison between HistComm and HCIC.

3 – Minutes: Approval of Minutes from Dec 14, 2023: RMarcello motioned to accept, Sharon 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll call vote: unanimous.

4 - SB presentation: 3 things to get back to them on:

- a. membership revision, they seem to be o.k. with revising to be not liaison position. Reduce from 9 to 7 with 2 associates.

- b. Should HCIC be more active on CPC and CPIC. For CPC, we at least have the form for application review but then request an HCIC member goes to CPC to discuss our input. The CPC Chair was amenable to this approach. Should it be the same for CPIC? Ellen will check with Nate (Chair of CPIC) if he would be amenable to this.
- c. Climate assessment form. (see below)

5 - Environmental/Climate assessment form review: Form started years ago – how do we get it to the committee's that need it. This form is more for things that end up going to vote at TM. It could be a form for people pulling a permit, but it's really geared toward town dependent voting items. For capital projects, planning projects, policy issues, all need to be reviewed with respect to Climate. See if CPC would be willing to test this form to see if it works well.

6 - Town Annual Report Review – Reviewed as a group. Everyone thought it was well done. Sharon moved to approve report as presented and amended, Lucy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous vote.

#### 7 - Volunteer Recruitment

- a. Areas of need
  - i. Grant research
  - ii. Advocacy
  - iii. Web site management and social media
  - iv. Event help and planning
  - v. Data gathering, sorting, organizing.
- b. How to recruit
  - vi. Can we get HS senior project kids
  - vii. People that are working off their tax burden?
  - viii. Letter to the editor

#### 8 - Other Business

- a. P&R is looking to remove weeds from the swimming area. Is it something that HCIC wants to be involved in? Do we want to make recommendations or suggestions to Pond Committee or P&R?
- b. PB update
  - i. Erosion Control bylaw is not being followed due to lack of information on it. Need help getting the word out.
  - ii. Master Plan – Looking for 4-5 members who are NOT on other committees, but might be FORMER committee members, to drive the update. Big things that need to be included: CAP, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Housing Production plan.
  - iii. Multi-Family – Going to spring TM as of right now, going with all 3 parcels. SDonahue to forward draft language to HCIC for review but noted that since it's a State drafted bylaw, our ability to modify the language is limited.
  - iv. TAC – update to the van usage. 1 user per day average. MART suggests we add parking. PB and TAC are working on this.
  - v. Specialized Stretch Code – from Land Use Board's meeting. SDonahue advocated for delay of putting this on the TM warrant. HCIC looking for possible Fall 24. SDonahue begged for even longer. Concerns about cost increases in the construction of low and worker cost housing though HCIC Chair has data that it isn't more costly.

- c. BoH – New transfer station group is possibly getting Black Earth composting to put in collection at the dump.
- d. Tree clearing bylaw with MVP is not moving forward with Conservation Commission since the person that was going to work on it now cannot. Ellen is going to ask MVP for an extension.
- e. MRPC rep and meeting – HCIC determined that it was too short of a notice for Harvard to host but we'd be willing to participate in the future. Ellen to contact them with our decision.

LWallace moved to adjourn, RMarcello seconded. Unanimous vote 9:24pm

Next meeting Jan 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm via zoom