



Community Resilience Working Group Meeting Minutes February 19, 2020

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm in the Volunteer Meeting Room, Town Hall, 13 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA

Members Present: Christiane Turnheim (Agricultural Advisory Committee), Lucy Wallace (Select Board), Sharon McCarthy (Board of Health); Staci Donahue (Planning Board), Janet Waldron, (Conservation Commission), Ellen Leicher (Citizen Member), Ron Ostberg (Citizen Member), and Elizabeth Toll (Citizen member and Bromfield Green Team); Patricia Natoli (Public Safety Representative)

Staff Present: Christopher Ryan (Director of Community and Economic Development)

Others Present: None

Old Business

Discussion of MVP Action Grant and RFP Status

Member Ron Ostberg volunteered to assume the Acting Chair role for the meeting and members supported this action. Mr. Ostberg initiated a "Collective Imaging" exercise intended to get feedback from all members present related to how the group proceeded to finalize the RFP. The questions posed included:

1. Can you envision the product of our effort?
2. Can you envision your role? What will you need to know? How will [you] gain that knowledge?
3. What are the key characteristics of a success?
4. Has the RFP helped you answer these questions?

All members had an opportunity to share some thoughts related to these questions and in summary, the following general points were made:

There was some frustration expressed that the RFP would not result in a actionable plan for the Town to begin to take steps to actually combat the impacts of climate change.

Several members said that they could not envision the end product of the project and it needed to be stated clearer.

Members discussed what documents should be looked at to help begin to consider a vision for a future Harvard in a climate change scenario. Mr. Ostberg referred several times to the Charles W. Eliot, II master plan developed in the 1960's and its continued relevance.

Mr. Ryan noted that he was sensitive to all of the shortcomings of the RFP related to its contribution to a complete plan but emphasized that it seemed to be the best set of tasks to make viable use of the funds and time available in pursuit of a complete plan in later phases.

The group shifted to discuss specifics of the RFP and comments made for edits included:

- Changes to dates listed
- Change Proposer to Respondent
- Add change after climate where applicable
- Date on contract award needs to be aligned with other dates
- Eliminate reference to standard contract in "letter of transmittal"
- Align bullets under "list of references"
- Change Town House to Town Hall
- Change RFP number to 001.
- Recommendation to have sustainability vision to be one of the modules completed during this phase.
- Eliminate greenhouse gas targets in the RFP.
- A number of other small edits to wording.
- Add mosquitoes to list of disease transmitting insects.
- Refer to Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Add Education as a module.
- Add communication as a key goal.
- Make agriculture and forestry their own individual modules.
- Eliminate what we "expect the Plan to be"
- Modify task list.
- Add reference to "curation" to dealing with data.
- Have liaison from consultant attend all CRWG meetings.
- Discuss other public meetings.
- Eliminate focus group and other meetings with public other than kickoff.

New Business

Discussion of Working Group Charge

There was no time to discuss this item but it was agreed to take it up at the next meeting scheduled for February 27th.

Other Business

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of 1/30/2020 were unanimously approved by the group.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:00 pm..

Adjournment

At 9:15 PM, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.