



Community Resilience Working Group

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2021

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm via Zoom platform.

Members Present: Ellen Sachs Leicher (interim acting chair); Arianna Thornton, Ron Ostberg, Wendy Sisson (Trails), Lucy Wallace (SB), Sharon McCarthy (BOH), Alexandra Cronin, Jaye Walderon (ConCom), Adam Meier, Teresa Garti (Harvard Conservation Trust), Christiane Turnheim (Ag Commission), Phoebe von Conta.

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

Others Present: Hannah Taylor (Harvard Press), Bromfield Green Team: Advisor Joshua Clarke, Ayla DeCoste, Annabelle Purcell, Michele Buni, Lena Aloise

Meeting convenes at 7:30 and Christopher Ryan reads remote meeting preamble

7:05 Ellen Sachs Leicher and Arianna Thornton updated on the outreach front. Facebook and Instagram and website is up and running. Arianna reviewed the website and showed all the links and resources added. Mr. Ryan asked where the 'contact us' and 'volunteer' links went to and Ms. Thornton confirmed that they went to climateactiongroup@gmail.com email which Mr. Ryan responds to.

Lucy Wallace suggested putting the vision statement on the homepage.

Ms. Thornton showed the Facebook page which is just the link to the website. The Instagram also just has the link to the website.

7:24 Lena Aloise reported on Green Team's work to get 'no idling' signs. Ayla DeCoste reported that they are promoting a green challenge for people to participate. Ms. Thornton reported that they will have a speaker scheduled for April 26 or 27th to talk about a subject TBD. Ms. Sachs Leicher noted that May 13th would be another possible date for a speaker to come to talk about what they can do about waste. Ms. Sachs Leicher is also trying to get a speaker to talk about how to make your house carbon neutral. Green Team has also been joining the HEAC group and HEAC is willing to sponsor the website with the action links in it from MassEnergize.

Earth Day 4/22/21 this year. Mr. Ryan and Phoebe von Conta talked about doing some outreach effort for HCAG (Harvard Climate Action) or (Harvard Climate Initiative?) and Green Team events. Ms. Von Conta is working on a board for listing the Earth Day related events and actions.

The Green Team will stay in contact via Ms. Sachs Leicher and Ms. Thornton. They are willing to help and can run with tasks if they have time.

Teresa Garti from the Harvard Conservation Trust noted that they have speakers coming as well for Earth Day this spring. She will connect with Ms. Von Conta to get on the board for outreach.

7:40 Mr. Ryan updated the group on the Apple Country work. The draft report will be ready in a week or two. CRWG will need to be ready to review. Same consulting group is looking at an additional grant in five towns (one of which is Harvard) for stream crossings and also for 'pocket forests'.

7:43 Ms. Sachs Leicher started with review of planning and forward movement. Mr. Ryan noted that 4/28 will be discussion with the Planning Board about the path forward for CRWG. Reviewed the Plan statement. Ms. Sachs Leicher pulled from the KLA report from 2018/2019 and added them to the report. The six focus areas from the KLA plan need to be reviewed. If these are what we want to stick with, then these will be the areas of focus/action on the website and going forward.

Planning subgroup for the Climate Action Plan was a thing, then was not a thing. Ms. Sachs Leicher said it needed to probably be re-started as we're marching forward with outreach and no plan. Ms. Sachs Leicher noted that getting an environmental forum together again so that all groups working on climate related focus could come together and collaborate. LW noted that we need to be compelling to draw in more people. Ms. Sachs Leicher noted that her hope for the future that all projects in town have an environmental view to them.

Ms. Garti noted that Concord has a committee chair meeting once per month so that everyone knows what's going on across boards – lead by the select board. Elevating the board so it gets attention will bring in more volunteers. It was noted that Land Use Boards has a monthly meeting where they talk across boards, but it's not formal.

Ms. Sachs Leicher noted there are many jobs available (in the CAG) if we can get volunteers.

Ms. Wallace asked to go thru the action areas as proposed by KLA in the initial framework version. The six areas are

1. Built Environment (HEAC has been tackling lots of these sorts of things);
2. Transportation (TAC might be able to help here, but HEAC also has overlap here with green charging);
3. Waste (BOH and Ag – composting?);
4. Natural Resources (Apple country, HCC, HCT, Pond Committee, etc);
5. Economic Development;
6. Social Resilience.

Ms. Sachs Leicher wants everyone to review the plan and really 'chew' on it to get comments.

Ms. Wallace noted that finding the information is hard. The *tinyurl* like will be sent by Mr. Ryan tomorrow. Jaye noted that she's unable to access the documents because of the Dropbox. LW noted going thru the tinyurl will get you there instead of through Dropbox.

April 26 is the date if we need to add people to the committee.

Mr. Ryan wants to know if Agriculture Advisory Commission (Ag) has formally adopted the Ag Climate Action Plan. Mr. Ryan wants to know if it could be adopted? Or endorsed? And if it could be posted on our website. Christiane Turnheim noted that Ag is a small group and most of the plan will be shelved as they don't have the capacity to make the plan a reality. Ag feels a bit defeated as the goals can't be achieved with the team they have right now. Ms. Turnheim noted they have a ranking of the items they want to tackle.

Ms. Sachs Leicher is asking for:

- Read and comment on document
- Committee meet on 4/8 @ 7:00pm
- Read/review/ visit what Arianna is doing with outreach
- Review what Phoebe is doing and comment back on Earth Day activities
- Be prepared to say how much time you can give – what you can/can't do

Ms. Wallace moves to adjourn, Ms. Donahue seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm