



## Community Resilience Working Group

### Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2021

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

**Members Present:** Lucy Wallace (Select Board); Christiane Turnheim (Agricultural Advisory Committee), Stacia Donahue (Planning Board), Sharon McCarthy (BOH); Ellen Leicher (Chair - Citizen Member), Jaye Waldron (ConCom); Catherine Warner (member at large); Adam Meier (ConCom subcommittee on Land Stewardship), Jefferson Burson (associate member)

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

**Others Present:** Hannah Taylor (Press); Robert Benson (possible future member)

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#### Convene and Preamble

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm. Mr. Ryan read the preamble and turned the meeting over to the Chair.

#### Outreach Update

This subgroup is down to two main members with some of the other members dropping out due to outside time commitments. Arianna Thornton will be passing along information on how to keep the Instagram and Facebook pages active. The group is hoping to get a little more help with the goal of trying to post at least twice per week.

#### *Upcoming Events*

June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm trying to come together with 5 communities for a presentation on EVs and Solar. From MassEnergize people

Heating and Cooling system presentation – Heat Smart alliance on June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30pm.

Catherine Warner is writing articles and looking for some additional discussion with the planning committee.

Alexandra Cronin has been working on short videos to post on the website. She has already taken video of Davida Bagatelle at the Harvard Public Library talking about the Seed Library. There were two more planned, but the Chair was unsure of the status as Ms. Cronin has gotten very busy with her day job.

#### Plan Development Update

Planning has met and needs to work on making the plan tighter. Mr. Ryan has brought back the Vision Statement, Brand Messaging, Elevator Pitch, etc. document for re-review with the larger team now.

KLA suggested that each 'module' have the same structure so if we're looking for measurements that we should try to repeat that in each section.

Mr. Burson and Mr. Ryan provided a pyramid graphic that could help with our planning efforts. Ms. Warner wanted to know what the plan looked like. Mr. Ryan noted that we don't know yet as it's what the planning group is trying to work on. Lucy Wallace noted that it should be something usable and not just a big 'tome' that sits on a shelf. Plan development is meeting again next Wednesday night (6/2) at 7:00 PM and will be moving forward. Mr. Ryan requested having one more overall meeting to get the younger cohort involved one more time to get their perspective. The group discussed how to break down the plan into the manageable chunks: what can the individuals do? What can the town/municipality do? What are the things that we need to push for at a State level? Is it better to do individual work or municipal work? It's a both/and situation where we need to push. Everyone believes and knows it's a large problem and we have lots to work with from the KLA report and the Apple Country report. All we can do is just keep moving forward as we have been and try to get as much done as we can.

### **Apple Country**

May 20<sup>th</sup> was a community meeting with the consultants. They presented their findings and reviewed the report. The forest management piece was removed from scope as the State said it would be provided in a new State-wide program. Mr. Ryan is not sure what that is at this time, but the Apple County Forest Management section was provided pro-bono from one of the consultants as the State had removed that piece of the funding.

There have been QR codes posted in various area from the study so that people can link to the website. They tied the nature-based solutions and recommendations in the report has been tied to the QR codes.

Mr. Ryan encouraged everyone to look at the updated website. He also encouraged feedback on the QR codes as he has not seen/tried one yet. ESL had concerns that the QR/links might be too much like a dissertation or if it would be something actually helpful or useful for bringing action. Ms. McCarthy scanned the report and was hoping there was something we could easily put into our MassEnergize site or CRWG website.

Ms. McCarthy did note that the report suggested having a carbon credit program that would allow businesses' (like the ones on Devens) to purchase carbon credits from local farms and orchards. Ms. Turnheim (Ag) noted that these programs are popular in the Midwest as the credits are in the range of 1-10\$/acre. Our farms are not at the scale that would be useful here with that metric, but maybe an different method or scale could be found?

Ms. Sachs Leicher asked if the consultant that we're getting for Ag would be able to help with that? Mr. Ryan noted that we would take this back to the consultant and say that we're interested to see if there was a way to make it work at a smaller scale for us.

Ms. McCarthy asked how to get this more publicity. Hannah Taylor (Press) noted that she would like to do an article on it which everyone supported. Ms. McCarthy noted there is so much information available that it's likely worth two articles. The report had lots of suggestions for what Harvard residents could do in their own environment. Ms. Sachs Leicher said we need to strike a balance between giving people too much information (report is 200+ pages), but Ms. McCarthy noted the Harvard specific section is only 30+/- pages. Ms. Sachs Leicher noted that the Ag report is on the website and nobody really looks at it or acts on it. We don't want this report to be like that.

Ms. Sachs Leicher noted that maybe we can do weekly tips just like the Board of Health did about the trash program. Ms. McCarthy suggested that Mr. Ryan ask the consultants if this is something they could provide for us.

**MassEnergize Update**

HEAC did approve it and training on the system is starting to happen. Our site should be ready for launch in September. This works nicely for having the kids back in school and able to help promote it.

**Town Resolution?**

Unsure timing on when to do this and what it might be. Ms. Sachs Leicher asked Ms. Wallace to help with the statement and what our resolution might be. What can the town tolerate? Ms. Wallace will start working on this and get a feel for how it might go.

**DLTA Grant**

DLTA grant at MRPC was approved for both the Ag commission help and writing of the transportation module for the plan.

**Next Meeting**

June 24 @ 7:00pm is next CRWG full group meeting.

**Adjournment**

At 8:21 PM, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.