



Community Resilience Working Group Meeting Minutes July 1, 2021

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

Members Present: Christiane Turnheim, Stacia Donahue, Sharon McCarthy; Ellen Leicher (Chair - Citizen Member), Arianna Thornton (Student Member); Catherine Warner; Jefferson Burson

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

Others Present: None

Convene and Preamble

The meeting convened at 7:04 pm. Christopher Ryan read the preamble and turned the meeting over to the Chair.

Plan Development update

Plan development group has agreed upon a vision statement, lens, and Keywords/phrases that we should all be moving to keep on message as we move forward.

The Plan group has decided upon using a consistent planning structure for each module of the plan including metrics and indicators to track performance and a 'responsible party' to lead that module.

Mr. Ryan presented the climate action hierarchy showing how the visual representation of where CRWG fits in each level.

Mr. Ryan presented the Climate Action Plan Draft Outline. The sections include:

- A. Energy
- B. Ecosystems
- C. Mobility & Land Use
- D. Social Capital
- E. Economy

These categories each have subcategories. Christiane Turnheim suggested that Agriculture should really be under the Land Use section instead of Economy. The group discussed this move and thought Agriculture really fits into two categories.

The group discussed a few of the subcategories to add and modify some of the goals and sub headings.

Section D and E are missing a 'lead' person to help shepherd it along. Arm and Arm does not have the bandwidth to carry section D (Social Capital). There was no suggestion for a group or person to help with section E, but Mr. Ryan noted that he would be interested in being involved in

this one as he's the Director of Community and Economic Development). The Chair noted that more help is needed with these sections.

The Implementation part of the plan will be important in all phases. Creating and holding 'grant-lets' (small ready for prime-time grant applications goals) would be key to this effort. The Chair described it as having 'shovel ready' projects identified early so we can be ready to go quickly with our grant requests when we hear of application windows being opened.

Outreach Update

Jefferson Burson, Catherine Warner, Ellen Sachs Leicher, and Arianna Thornton have been working on the website. They added a community voices section with mini-videos for local actions. The video for Davida Bagatelle and the Harvard Seed Library was the first. Mr. Ryan asked if there was any way to get the analytics output from the website to see what's being 'clicked'. Mr. Burson is able to get this information and will work with Mr. Ryan to see if he can get an output. Ms. Turnheim noted that having cross links to other Harvard small businesses might be helpful

Upcoming Events

CRWG will have a hopefully large presence in the 4th of July Parade with QR codes and posters in the cars representing the group. We are also looking for booth space at the Volksfest/Lions Club event and the Harvard Flea Market.

There are some Green Team members making mini-videos for the website in August, so that will help to continue getting 'hits' on that site.

At the next meeting, CRWG will have a feature speaker discussion on the climate research grants to document how carbon credits could work in the agriculture realm.

Pump Track

Discussed the potential impact and the need for the Town to come together on a solution that will work for Park and Rec, but also to protect the Pond and the land/trees that will be impacted by the compression of the dirt and the invasive plants that may be in the dirt that is trucked in. The hope is for civility and working together with all boards to get everyone closer to a resolution. The Chair noted that one of the goals of CRWG for fall was to talk about the need for civil, cross-board communication and work and that this issue has moved the need to the front.

Town Resolution

The Chair is working on the rough draft phase of a resolution. Instead of it being a Citizen's Petition, the Select Board would rather take what we've produced and endorse it for addition to the Warrant.

Apple Country Report

The Report has been made public and published on the Apple Country project website and Harvard's specific portion is about 20% of the over 200 page report (with 300+ pages of data in the appendix). Mr. Ryan reviewed briefly with the team but has not had a chance to read the report. Mr. Burson noted that he had read most of the draft report and noted that much of the information about Harvard was very precise and useful. Sharon McCarthy suggested that we print one hard copy and have it available at the Library with possibly another hard copy for the Bromfield school library.

Stacia Donahue asked if there was a 'ready to go' presentation that we can take to Select Board or other boards instead of our group trying to distill a presentation out of the 200+ page report. Mr. Ryan and Ms. Sachs Leicher to follow up. Ms. Donahue also asked if there were grant

application suggestions in this report or things that we can be ready to act on with this report as our backing. The need to gather 'shovel ready' projects is important in our Implementation phase of the plan.

Other Business

DLTA Grant

DLTA grants at MRPC were reviewed this morning (7/1 @10am). The Agriculture Advisory Commission (Ag) was able to relay all their concerns and Liz Allard will be the liaison between Ag and MRPC with the work. Ag noted that they can't act on their Climate Action Plan without the support staff which DLTA will be providing. The Transportation plan was also discussed for initial scoping. The next step would be to review the scope with the CRWG and TAC to get buy in before signing off on the work. There will be public meetings for the Transportation piece of development.

Recurring Meeting Time Discussion

Mr. Ryan will send an email to find a recurring meeting time that will work for everyone. It appears that once per month for the whole group and weekly for the subgroups is working well so that will be the format going forward.

Adjournment

At 8:28 PM, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.