



Community Resilience Working Group Meeting Minutes August 12, 2021

The meeting convened at 7:05 pm [via Zoom platform](#).

Members Present: Jefferson Burson (Planning Board), Ellen Sachs Leicher (HEAC, Acting Chair), Adam Meier (HCT), Patricia Natoli (Public Safety), Lucy Wallace (Citizen), Catherine Warner (Citizen); Robert Benson (Citizen)

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

Others Present: None

Convene and Preamble

The meeting convened at 7:05 pm. Christopher Ryan read the preamble and turned the meeting over to the Chair.

Minutes Template

Chris and Ellen asked for volunteers to take notes. Reminded that they had sent the minutes template out. Catherine volunteered to take notes.

Plan Development Update

Chris Ryan updated the group on the subcommittee's progress on the plan thus far – he highlighted the major elements of the plan, areas of focus, action areas proposed, and the evaluation framework. The plan development group will meet to finalize more details on Sept 2nd at 7:30 pm.

Discussion of public meeting for Sept 16th on the Climate Action Plan (CAP). There will be a kick-off meeting (Webinar) to let the public know before the plan is too far along so the public can participate and be informed about what has been done and remains to be done in the plan. The Webinar will be structured as: 20-30 min introducing the CAP and the background, then open up for public comment and discussion, total about 1.5 hours

Lucy Wallace asked, for the people who register, can you send some information in advance?

Action: The two pager was agreed upon by the group.

Discussion: How will the meeting be conducted? Ellen will be Chair, others will take sections to present if they'd like.

Jefferson, Adam, Lucy, and Chris will try to create a bullet-point an outline for each section that will be presented.

Outreach Update

Ellen Leicher updated the group on the outreach subcommittee activities.

Major Goal: People need to know who we are. Increase visibility and understanding of our activities.

Letter to the Eeditor

Deborah made some suggestions. Lucy has some small edits to add. Ellen to send to the Press for next edition.

Lions Festival (9/11)

Plans for Table: gift basket to raffle off; banner; hand out Town Resolution; Sign up people for MassEnergize.

Discussion: Who can help? (Jefferson, Ellen, Bob, Lucy, Catherine...). We don't have a budget for this. Ellen will buy the banner and will fund some of the t-shirts She asked members what they wanted. Organic cotton was favored.

Flea Market (10/9)

Plan for booth: wear t-shirts, talk about town resolution, MassEnergize. Individual members can sell stuff (promote re-use/recycle); No one from the group seems to be able to do it but Ellen will ask the Green Team (Catherine and Ellen can show up for the event).

MassEnergize

It is close to being up and ready; We need to do a soft launch. Ellen has asked the General to use their Wi-Fi outside. To get friends and acquaintances to try it out and give feedback. Expect to be there 1 to 1.5 hours; Jefferson, Ellen, Catherine, Adam, and Chris may be able to do it depending on the day.

Update: Apple Country

This item was pushed back to another meeting or email due to time constraints.

Town Resolution

Ellen noted that it was discussed at the last Select Board meeting; HEAC (Paul Green) presented it; HEAC has taken formal vote accepting it.

Lucy Wallace motioned to accept the draft of the resolution of Aug 10th – all present members agreed, no one dissented.

Group discussion: CRWG should seek support from various committees/commissions such as Pond, HCT, Conservation Committee; Pat Natoli will ask the Fire Chief as Emergency Coordinator to see if he can endorse it; COA, School Committee, Board of Health, Arianna will ask Girl Scouts, Agricultural Advisory Commission, Trustees of Reservations, Churches; HFA; Catherine suggested taking out an ad in Harvard Press listing all the groups who do agree to endorse it.

Question: Can the Press do an editorial? (Catherine/Ellen will ask);

Think of different groups and reach out (once we hear back from the Select Board);

Ellen suggested we should all reach out via word of mouth/informal networks, too.

Liaison Reports

Ellen noted that liaisons should be sure to bring information back and forth between CRWG and other committees/boards.

Future Meetings

Planning Sub-Committee: Sept 2, 7:30 pm

Full group meeting: Sept 9, 7 pm

Other Business (Updates):

Chris: the town Hazard Mitigation Plan has expired, so we can't apply for a lot of funding; many towns are doing it with their climate plans; Fire Chief and DPW should be on board with this; consulting firms do this for about \$20 to \$30,000; Fire Chief sent in request for this; We will find out whether this is going to come through soon. Once we start the process there will be public meetings, data collection and working with public consultant; will take some volunteer hours.

Pat Natoli: The state has changed the framework several times – especially because of COVID; Normally, there was a MEMA manager from the state who came out, but that's no longer available; The Fire Chief and Pat have to come up with an 80-page Hazard Mitigation plan themselves;

Chris's suggestion to get a consultant would cover some of what the Fire Chief and Pat would have to write up.

Pat: If we could get civilians to help with out of the box thinking (new, unprecedented issues – like smoke from wildfires) that would be really important.

Lucy: How much of expired plan is still usable?

Pat said most of it, but it would have to be updated. But a number of new things need to be addressed (e.g., cooling centers and COVID).

Lucy: Isotope (from Select Board meeting) will find out where there are dead spots in cell coverage – important issue for communications.

Pat asked if people received the federal emergency alert test? (No one in the group received it.) Check the town website and see how to make sure you get the alerts.

Chris: DLTA – The Transportation Plan Update will be addressed through a Climate Action framework; Let Chris know if you want to be on this subcommittee and/or join the email distribution list to keep up with the Transportation planning.

Ellen brought up the topic of CPC request for CRWG input on their application. There was a Group discussion on how and when we should do an evaluation. Chris Ryan suggested a pro bono consultant. Jefferson would like to have more time to prepare and gather data. Lucy suggested we review some past applications that are public documents to understand the relevant questions. Create a tailored application relevant to the sorts of projects that will be evaluated. Ellen and Lucy will reach out to Didi Chadron of CPC to discuss further. We may not be prepared this fall to take on the role that is highlighted in their application but take the time to do it thoughtfully for next year.

Chris presented an update on staffing: A proposal on how to organize relevant boards and committees (non-elected) under a Director of Conservation and the existing Director of Community and Economic Development with more administrative assistants supporting the volunteers. He is looking for these boards and committees to endorse it so that it could be brought to the Select Board.

Adjournment

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