



Sustainability Commission – Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee –

Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday, Oct 10, 2023
Meeting Time: 6:30 PM
Meeting Location: via ZOOM (recorded)

Attendees: Phil Francisco, Charlotte Weigel

Minutes:

Started – 6:35pm

- Agenda Item 1: Review minutes from Sept 14th
 - Phil moved to accept the minutes from the Sept 14th meeting as amended. Charlotte seconded. Phil – aye. Charlotte – aye
- Agenda Item 2: Review town wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory presentation to Select Board and their feedback
 - Phil noted that the presentation went well, but with all of the questions and discussion at the end, we failed to circle back for agreement on the next steps proposed at the end of the presentation, which includes coming back to the Select Board to talk about steps to decarbonization planning and present an overview of climate action plans. However, he spoke with Peter Cunningham and Mark Haddad informally after the meeting and reaffirmed our plan to do this. **Charlotte and Phil agreed a target for mid-November would be ideal for going back to the Select Board.**
- Agenda Item 3: Discuss next groups to reach out to for greenhouse gas inventory presentation
 - Planning Board – **Action item:** Phil will figure out when that will be – potentially Oct 26
 - GELD - – **Action item:** Charlotte and Phil will ask Kevin at Education Subcommittee meeting on Friday, Oct 13
 - Finance Committee – Phil noted that having numbers to present to them will be helpful to build support. Work from the GDRMS inventory Charlotte completed independently could be included.
 - Community – **Action item:** Charlotte will write an article for Groton Herald on the inventory with feedback from Phil and bring to the Commission for approval on Oct 31st, or whenever the next meeting is after the regularly scheduled October meeting, which is Oct 17th. **Target publishing this article right before the next meeting with the Select Board.**
 - GDRHS – **Action item:** Charlotte will reach out to Environmental Club, supervising teachers and administration to see if we can present the inventory to them
 - Groton School - **Action item:** Phil will contact David Black
 - Lawrence Academy - **Action item:** Phil will contact Michelle Ruby
 - GDRSD School Committee - **Action item:** Charlotte will contact
 - Charlotte questioned if we should wait until we go back to the Select Board to have support for a path for creating a decarbonization plan first so that we don't have to keep going back to different groups, but Phil thinks repeated engagement with different groups will help drive the message and enthusiasm around the work.
- Agenda Item 4: Discuss incorporation of residential propane into inventory

- Based on feedback at Select Board meeting, there are houses heated with propane in Groton that may have been missed in the inventory.
 - Charlotte explained that heating source for residential properties in the tax assessors data is only listed as gas, and does not distinguish between natural gas and propane. If any homes are heated with propane they would be absent from the inventory because residential natural gas combustion is calculated from the total number of therms that National Grid reports selling to resi properties in Groton.
 - She discovered that in the MAPC data provided for calculating % residential oil heat, that there is a column for % Households heated with utility gas, and another for % Households heated with non-utility gas. Those numbers add up to be very close to the number of houses heated with gas from the assessors data base. % Households heated with non-utility gas was 8.25%. We are going to assume this is propane and calculate the emissions from these houses as single-family detached homes, as that is the majority of housing stock in Groton.
 - **Action item:** Charlotte will calculate the amount of residential fuel combustion from propane and add to the inventory.
- Agenda Item 5: Outline proposed path for decarbonization planning
 - Phil and Charlotte agreed that a town resolution should be considered as part of this path
 - An ideal time to propose a resolution would be spring town meeting – this would allow the resolution to inform the Master Plan that is targeted for a town meeting vote in Fall 2024.
 - Ideally, any resolution would be supported by the Select Board, Finance Committee and the Planning Board.
 - Charlotte briefly outlined Harvard’s climate resolution – this resolution and others will be considered at the next meeting as part of a decarbonization plan.
 - The remainder of this agenda item will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting
- Agenda Item 6: Create generic outline of climate action plan
 - This will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting
- Agenda Item 7: Create sample build out of climate action plan section
 - This will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting

Meeting adjourned – 7:30pm

Next Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee meeting: October 26, 2023, noon

Respectfully submitted,

- **Charlotte Weigel** Sustainability Commission Member

Minutes approved by Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee, November 2, 2023.