

City of Keene
New Hampshire

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

8:00 AM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Peter Hansel, Vice Chair
Mari Brunner
Councilor Terry Clark
Dr. Chris Brehme
Larry Dachowski, Alternate

Members Not Present:

Megan Straughen
Councilor Gary Lamoureux

Staff Present:

Michele Chalice, Planner

Guests

Louise and Bob Cook, Climate Action Team
of the Monadnock Progressive Alliance
Glias Crandell
Charles Daloz, Ag Commission member
Katie Glosser, KSC Journalism student

1. Call To Order and Roll Call

Chair Shedd called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Roll Call was conducted.

2. Approval of March 1, 2017 minutes and Retreat minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hansel to approve the minutes of the March 1st meeting. It was seconded by Dr. Brehme and passed by unanimous vote of the committee.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Hansel to approve the minutes of the Retreat held on 2/28/17. It was seconded by Ms. Brunner and passed by unanimous vote of the committee.

3. Follow-up Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GGE) Inventory Update status

Ms. Brunner reported that the city will be moving forward with the Inventory Update, which is expected to entail 105 hours of work and to be completed sometime up to August

Ms. Chalice explained that city planners had originally sought a deluxe version of the report, which would have included interviews with various departments. She explained that because of budget constraints, the Planning Department had elected to pursue a scaled down version that would document and analyze data collected from 1995 and 2015. Ms. Brunner said the report would be very similar to the previous report for the period 2006 through 2008.

Chair Shedd explained the background for the Update: The city had set goals for GGE reductions between 1995 and 2015 of 20 percent for the municipal sector and 10 percent for the community-wide piece. An interim update from the baseline was completed by Ms. Brunner when she was a student at Antioch University in 2014. The 2015 report is only now being completed due to timing and budget constraints. The achievement of the GGE reduction targets will be a matter of public record, bringing attention to the way city efforts and societal trend have contributed to the progress. Once the city has the information provided in the inventory update, it will need to consider new targets.

Vice Chair Hansel pointed out that part of the problem in compiling the data is that the methodology has morphed over time, so information gathered early on in the process didn't necessarily match information that was gathered late in the process.

Chair Shedd thanked Ms. Brunner and Ms. Chalice for moving the project forward.

4. April Events

April 18: Chair Shedd noted a screening of a climate related documentary, *The Age of Consequences*, about the military's perspective on climate change, at Peterborough Community Theater at 7 pm.

April 22: EarthFest.

Chair Shedd said that in the past CCP has provided a table displaying information about GGE and the city's targets at the event. Mr. Dachowski said he could man the table for part of the day. Vice Chair Hansel said he might be available. Mr. Daloz said that he would bring up the idea of sharing a table with CCP at the next Ag Commission meeting.

Ms. Chalice said she could provide a table, a tri-fold display board, and also a four-page ESCO (Energy Savings Co.) report on the progress the city has made in energy savings. It was also suggested that images of the solar panel systems at Keene State College and at the Keene Unitarian Church be displayed.

April 29: Climate March: opportunity to co-sponsor

Chair Shedd introduced the topic of the International and National Climate March and mentioned that a climate working group (Climate Action Team) of the Monadnock Progressive Alliance was working on that. In response to Chair Shedd's question about whether it would make sense for CCP to be listed as a sponsor of the event, Ms. Chalice said that she would check with city officials to make sure CCP is allowed to do that.

Chair Shedd noted that there will be a screening of the documentary, *The Burden: Fossil Fuel, the Military and National Security*, at the library, and fees for that would be waived if a city committee is a co-sponsor of the event. She said there has been a request made for a mayoral proclamation for that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Cook reported on the plans of the Climate Action Team, noting that the city Police Department was in the process of reviewing the group's request for permit. Activities are to begin at 9:30 AM in the parking lot behind Margarita's Restaurant, and continue with a march

up both sides of Main that and funnel into Central Square, where there will be four speakers and live music. The gathering would remain in Central Square until about 2 PM, when participants will have the opportunity to view the documentary at the library. Mr. Cook said the goal was to raise the consciousness of the public about the unfolding climate emergency.

Chair Shedd suggested that if CCP has a table at the EarthFest, it could use the same materials for a table at this event. She said she could provide a table.

Vice Chair Hansel made a motion that the CCP be listed as a co-sponsor of the event. Dr. Brehme seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote of the committee. As previously noted, Ms. Chalice said she would check with the city to make sure the committee is allowed to do this.

5. Memorandum of Understanding Between Antioch University and the City of Keene

Chair Shedd said efforts had been made to schedule a meeting between upper level leadership for Antioch University and the city, as per the 2014 MOA. She said that it hadn't quite gelled yet, but that it would take place.

6. Committee's 2017 Priorities

a. WEATHERIZATION SUMMIT: Discussion of stakeholders/tasks/ideas

Ms. Chalice reported on a talk provided by the Keene Chamber of Commerce during the previous week regarding the energy situation in the Monadnock region and the way it relates to energy in New Hampshire as a whole. The point was made by the speaker, Michael Mooiman of Franklin Pierce University, that energy efficiency has the highest cost benefit for the least amount of environmental disruption or compromise to people's quality of life.

Ms. Chalice distributed literature with information about the Energize 360, an energy hub organized in the Seabrook area, and about the New Hampshire Saves Programs, an upgrade program provided by Eversource to its customers.

She said Kate Perry from Eversource has agreed to attend the next CCP meeting and will speak about the New Hampshire Saves Program offerings as it relates to the committee's goal of weatherization and how that message can be disseminated more broadly to residents in Keene.

There will be a secondary meeting with the Chamber Commerce to discuss how the energy efficiency offerings, like those provided through Energize 360, could be brought to the Monadnock region. Ms. Chalice said the idea now is to see what's involved and determine whether this region is a good candidate for that type of program. If the committee is interested in taking this on, Ms. Chalice said she would be able to come back from the meeting with an idea of the tasks involved in setting up an energy hub.

She said the New Hampshire Saves Program is already available for Eversource customers, but the word needs to get out to the public. Ms. Chalice described the way the program works: the homeowner pays \$100 for an audit, and depending on the results, a contractor is hired from a list of qualified firms, with half of the cost being covered by the program up to \$7,000. She said that

it was confirmed at the Chamber of Commerce meeting that funds through this program continue to be available

Chair Shedd said that in looking at the Energize 360 literature, it seems to work on the premise lowering costs by aggregating individual households into a pool of purchasers.

Councilor Clark reported on a program used by Peterborough to buy energy with other municipalities through a broker. He said that the Keene purchasing agent and other city staff were fully on board with pursuing this idea for Keene.

Ms. Chalice said she was pulling together information about how Energize 360 was set up, including copies of the Requests for Proposals and other resources that were used.

Chair Shedd read from an email from ReVision Energy, which is the clean energy solutions provider for the Energy 360 Program, about the keys to success for creating an energy hub: 1.) Identify Community leaders 2.) Develop a timeline, and 3.) Decide on the issuance of RFPs.

Chair Shedd passed out a list of potential stakeholders who would be invited to participate and asked other committee members to suggest additional entities for the list. Ms. Brunner suggested that Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRP) be added to the list.

The following suggestions were offered during the course of discussion:

- Vice Chair Hansel: The ideal time for a summit of stakeholders would be the fall or spring.
- Dr. Brehme: The committee might organize two events, one that could be used to leverage into the next, with an RFP coming out of an event that is held this year.
- Vice Chair Hansel: The committee ask the organizers of Energize 360 about the timeframe of their work. Ms. Chalice said she will be giving the organizer a call.
- Ms. Brunner: CCP should reach out to other organizations with which to partner in this effort.
- Chair Shedd: If CCP held the initial summit of stakeholders sometime before next April, then a consumer level rollout might be expected to begin by the Earth Day next year.
- Mrs. Cook: There should be a Do-It-Yourself aspect to this effort.

Chair Shedd, responding to a question from Ms. Brunner, suggested that the committee might ask Ms. Perry from Eversource this question: To what extent does the New Hampshire Saves Program offering overlap with Energize 360?

She asked members to email Ms. Chalice with additional questions they would like to ask Ms. Perry at the next meeting.

b. SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER: Follow-Up: Sustainability Officer Possibilities

Chair Shedd suggested that the committee skip to the next item on the agenda, citing the need for more time.

c. COMMUNITY GARDENS: Recent Agriculture Commission/Community Garden

Mr. Daloz, a member of the Agriculture Commission, said the commission would like to expand community gardens, but that the commission is still trying to figure out its priorities. He

reported that the commission is looking at Bent Court property to see if high school students could do some work there. Mr. Daloz said his interest is to develop a small group of people in the city who are sufficiently trained in agriculture to be able to make gardens on a significant scale.

Ms. Chalice reported that Jori Johnson, who is in charge of community gardens for Keene Housing, had contacted one of the members of the Ag Commission. Ms. Johnson inquired about other sites that could be used for gardens by tenants of 5 Central Square. They are elderly or disabled people. Ms. Johnson is going to attend an Ag Commission meeting to talk about Keene Housing's community garden work in general. She said the Ag Commission would like community gardens to be part of the Downtown revitalization Ad Hoc Committee's discussions.

Ms. Chalice said she would like to invite CCP to attend the Ag Commission meeting at which Ms. Johnson is to speak. She said she would send the information about the meeting.

Ms. Brunner suggested that Libby McCann of Keene Community Garden Connections of Antioch University be brought into discussion. Ms. Chalice said she would send Ms. McCann an invitation to attend the Ag Commission meeting, and inform her that CCP also has made community gardens a priority.

7. Adjournment – Next Meeting, Wednesday, May 3, 2017

The meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Fleming, Minute-taker