

**City of Keene**  
**New Hampshire**

**CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

**8:00 AM**

**2nd Floor Committee Rm, City Hall**

**Members Present:**

Jennifer Risley, Chair  
Robert Kelley, Vice Chair  
Thomas Powers, Councilor  
Dr. Ann Shedd  
Richard (Dick) Cornelius, Alternate

**Staff Present:**

Michele Chalice, Planning

**Others Present:**

**Members Not Present:**

Danny Veercamp  
Megan Kennedy

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Risley called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Roll call was conducted.

**2. May 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Shedd made a motion to approve the minutes of May 6, 2015, which was seconded by Councilor Powers, and passed by unanimous vote.

**3. CCP Goals for 2015**

Chair Risley stated that she re-listed these by priority and made a few tweaks per the committee's suggestions. She asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to approve these goals they made three months ago.

Councilor Powers made a motion for the CCP to pass the 2015 goals. Mr. Kelley seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Chair Risley stated that the first two goals are on today's agenda.

**4. Goal Alignment Document**

Chair Risley stated that the CCP wanted to look at the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP), the Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) for Keene, and the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan (NHCAP) goals. She continued that she brought all the goals together into one document. She did not list all of the goals in the CAP because there are so many. She asked for the CCP to talk about next steps for this document and if other things should be added. She went through the goals and stated that the most relevant goal from the NHCAP is to have greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. This goal has been adopted by numerous state cities

and organizations. Keene's/the CAP's current goal is to have greenhouse gas emissions 10% below 1995 levels by 2015. Specifics under that are to do a Greenhouse Gas Inventory every two years, have a 20% reduction of municipality emissions, and have a community-wide weatherization program. The City was part of Climate Resilient Communities pilot program; one of the first five cities to do so in the US. Chair Risley read the goals of the CAP out loud, including the following: reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10% below 1995 levels by 2015, decrease community energy consumption by 25%, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused production of energy by 75%.

Dr. Shedd stated that since they have reached 2015, which was the target in the CMP, they have to make a recommendation to City Council for new goals to set. Chair Risley replied yes, and they did not meet the goal for this year, so they should talk about that, too. She asked if the other goals make sense to keep in next year's CAP. Dr. Shedd replied that at least coming up to the targets of the NHCAP would be consistent with the broader scope of their place within the state. She continued that if they do push for that, having some targets within the next 35 years would be helpful. Ms. Chalice stated that the CCP would create a statement of recommendation to the City Council and the City Council decides if it goes to a committee for discussion and recommendation, then back to the City Council. She can draft the memo on behalf of the CCP and bring it next month. Specifically for the NH Climate Goals which have a date of 2050.

Chair Risley replied yes, and they want to add stepping stone goals. Councilor Powers asked if the City's goal is in the CMP. Chair Risley replied it is in the CMP and the CAP. Dr. Shedd added that it is a humble goal. Councilor Powers stated that amending the CAP would be easier than amending the CMP. Ms. Chalice stated that Ms. Purinton mentioned a person being charged with monitoring it. Chair Risley replied yes, she thinks Ms. Purinton had said there was money to hire another intern to do this work. She asked if the correct process means they cannot discuss it until 2016, and if the right next step is to draft the memo. Ms. Chalice replied that she can research how to draft the memo to the City Council, regarding aligning and updating the City's goals. Dr. Shedd stated that she thought the CMP was meant to be a living document. She continued that the goal in the CMP had a 2015 target so it seems very appropriate to suggest an update to the CMP, regarding staying up to date on the inventories. The CMP says the inventory process should be formalized in the community and completed every two years. That is a stated goal. Whether they do that by hiring a series of interns or it becomes an internal function is yet to be determined. She asked if it is an unfunded mandate. Ms. Chalice replied yes. She asked if it would be cleanest to ask for the realignment and update first and then figure out this piece. Chair Risley replied yes, and to know about the subgoals. Ms. Chalice asked if there was an update from the last intern before she left. Chair replied yes, Mari Brunner was the intern and gave an update. Dr. Shedd replied that she thinks the 2008 inventory is on the CCP's website.

Chair Risley asked for a motion to have Ms. Chalice write a memo. Councilor Powers stated that he is not sure. He continued that they probably should not have put the 2015 date in the CMP because now they have to update that and it will be a lengthy process as the topic goes from committee to committee. Maybe they should get advice from Planning Director Rhett Lamb. Ms. Chalice replied that she will research creating the draft memo and get Mr. Lamb's feedback.

Jim Gardner stated that lots of science has been done since the 2009 CAP. He continued that the most recent item is the synthesis report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It would be a huge omission to not include the latest science. The CMP goes back to 2010. There have been enormous changes in the science since then. The recommendations in the CAP are old. He encourages having the most current recommendations.

Chair Risley replied that she would need to revisit the notes from Ms. Brunner's presentation about the international, state, and local goals. She continued that she recalls that the CCP thought it best to focus on the State goals but given Mr. Gardner's comments they might want to think about the international science. Dr. Shedd replied that they have moving targets as the science evolves. She continued that she does agree with Mr. Gardner that more and more stringent calls for action are in order as they see the pace of changes accelerating. At least aligning with the 2009 state goals is a start and when they present to the City Council they could also talk about the IPCC information to show that there is strong backing from international scientific communities. She does not think they need a motion yet but would like Ms. Chalice to research this/start drafting a memo.

Chair Risley asked who would be willing to look at the matrix related to the international goals. Dr. Shedd replied that she thinks she can. Chair Risley replied that she will check back in with Dr. Shedd in a couple weeks. She continued that they will have Ms. Chalice draft a memo, discuss it, and maybe even change the goal. She continued that this seems like a good way to get things moving.

Mr. Cornelius asked if they are talking about Keene adopting the State goal and reducing emissions by 80% also. Chair Risley replied yes. Mr. Cornelius replied that that would be very difficult; the state probably has power plants that the city does not have. He thinks it would be sort of meaningless. Chair Risley replied that other towns and cities have adopted this. Ms. Chalice stated that the City is making progress; it would be nice to find out how much. It is not meaningless. Mr. Cornelius replied that he does not mean the City is not doing anything; he means that the State goal is based on knowledge of state emissions and it is different for Keene. Chair Risley stated that the goal would be a percentage (i.e. for the City to reduce *Keene's* emissions by 80%, not to reduce by 80% of the state's emissions.) She continued that that it is good to discuss what the implications are for a city of this size. She wants to move on this goal because recommending this goal to the City is something the CCP could accomplish.

Dr. Shedd stated that something else on her mind is that she has become aware of how much public misunderstanding there is about greenhouse gas emissions. She continued that she has looked at institutions that plan on going "carbon neutral" by such and such a date. She wonders if the public has a better grip on that. She is thinking about how to frame it best, so that people in institutions who are being asked to change their behavior understand what they are being asked to do. People seem to understand carbon emissions better than greenhouse gas emissions.

Councilor Powers stated that it may be called the "CAP" on paper but they need an easier term for the public, like "energy efficiency" or "climate protection." He continued that people understand "stop using plastic water bottles" and "use your car less" better than the term

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“Climate Adaptation Plan.” Chair Risley replied that goal E is to create a community outreach program, and once they know what their goals are they can start crafting their messages for different audiences. Ms. Chalice stated that there is community outreach happening. She continued that for instance, Mr. Lamb has talked about having a placemat with relevant facts that could go to restaurants. Chair Risley replied that it is great to know there is discussion like that happening.

Jake Pipp, of Antioch University New England (AUNE)’s Center for Climate Preparedness and Resilience, stated that it looks like it is focused on emissions and energy consumption, and he wonders where, in the CMP or elsewhere, they are focusing on resiliency, adaptation, flooding, etc., which will come with climate change more and more whether they hit the reduction targets or not.

Councilor Powers replied that there are several initiatives going on regarding flood water mitigation. He continued that they are not doing it as much as Seabrook but there is a recognition. The real emphasis is on reduction in flooding. They will move forward in the process. The bottom line with everything is money.

Dr. Shedd replied that the whole climate adaptation grid does address storm water management, at everything from zoning and what the Public Works Department does. She continued that there is direction towards answering the questions, maybe not yet fleshed out with all the specifics.

Chair Risley stated that the CCP held a retreat a few months ago and felt that they needed some focus, and decided to pick four opportunities within the CAP. She continued that the ones they do not focus on are not ones they do not want them to happen, it is just that they chose focus areas based on the CCP’s time, interests, passions, and abilities.

Ms. Chalice encouraged Mr. Pipp to look at the City’s CIP to see where the monies have been designated for storm water management, short term fixes, and long term research and studies to get a City-wide strategy. Mr. Pipp stated that he just finished a storm water management class at AUNE with Michael Simpson, who is the co-Director of the Center for Climate Preparedness and Resilience. He continued that Mr. Simpson mentioned that the City’s new granite curbs are the wrong way to go for storm water management, and a better storm water management strategy could be found for a lesser cost. Chair Risley replied that storm water would be a focus of the City’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with AUNE.

Dr. Shedd stated that one of the CCP’s targets is coming up with a checklist of items for City staff to consider when doing projects. For example, has the upper Washington Street project considered storm water management? She continued that they will have an eventual way of getting climate adaptation and resiliency issues more in the consciousness of all City committees and departments.

Councilor Powers stated that granite curbs are not a universal element of the City’s reconstruction; they are used in areas where it is required to channel storm water to other systems. He continued that Washington Street has granite curbing as it is a major thoroughfare; the granite curbs are for safety and to channel the water. There are rain gardens there. Other

places have slope curb or no curb. They do not use asphalt curbing much anymore because it does not last.

Mr. Pipp stated that AUNE's Climate Center is working with the City on a project – engaging citizens in east Keene on flooding issues, beginning in September. He continued that the project will include naming and framing the issue, GIS mapping of the affected areas, and a database of stories from residents who are affected. There will be a meeting in the fall for people interested in being partners in the project. He wants to know if the CCP wants to be involved and in what capacity. He just joined the Climate Center and is working on the conference that will be in April. Christa Daniels could not make it today and she would be able to answer more questions.

Chair Risley replied that it would be a missed opportunity for them not to participate in this; it fits in their charge, and she would love for them to be a partner. Councilor Powers replied that they should have someone from the project come to another CCP meeting to keep them updated. Chair Risley asked if they could send a CCP member to the Climate Center's meetings about this topic. Mr. Pipp replied yes, they meet bi-monthly and he could get the CCP the schedule for that. Councilor Powers agreed that the CCP should partner. Ms. Chalice asked if someone from the Climate Center could come to monthly meetings here. Mr. Pipp replied that he will look into that. Chair Risley replied that she knows they are busy with the Climate Center but it would be great to stay connected more.

Mr. Pipp gave more information about the conference he is working on, which will be in Baltimore in April. Chair Risley asked if people can participate in components of the conference if they cannot travel to Baltimore. Mr. Pipp replied that he does not know if it will all be videotaped, but that would be a good idea. He continued that the last one was in Manchester so now they are moving it more mid-Atlantic; they are trying to have these conferences for people from Florida to Canada. Discussion continued about ways to involve participants without having them travel to Baltimore. Chair Risley thanked Mr. Pipp.

##### **5. Climate Adaptation Plan Subcommittee**

Chair Risley stated that the biggest thing she got from Mr. Lamb's and Ms. Llangella's emails about this topic is the need for a formal motion.

Councilor Powers made a motion for the CCP to create a subcommittee. Dr. Shedd seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote after brief discussion.

Ms. Chalice asked what the name of the subcommittee is. Dr. Shedd replied Climate Adaptation Plan Subcommittee.

Chair Risley asked if the meetings should be recurring. She continued that if not, the CCP needs to give seven days' notice of each meeting to Ms. Llangella. They do not have to take minutes; they just have to present a summary to the full committee so that can go in the CCP's minutes. Anyone who is a member needs to give their contact information to the City Clerk's office. Dr. Shedd asked if there is a cap on how many people can be on the subcommittee, given the CCP's membership of seven. Chair Risley and Ms. Chalice replied that they do not think that is an issue.

Chair Risley stated that in the agenda packet is a document called CCP Adaptation Plan next steps and questions. It is from the fall of 2013. They connected and aligned existing efforts from Monadnock region, state, and New England level to find out what each group is doing and to connect to coalitions and networks. Then they identified leverage points, meaning, if they got a target in each accomplished, which would serve as a domino effect? Or which are holding up the other targets from being reached? But it is now the summer of 2015 so it might not necessarily be a good plan to take those targets on. She identified targets from the Local Economy and Transportation sections, and Dr. Shedd looked at Building & Development and Energy Systems and started thinking about an action plan for that.

Dr. Shedd stated that in the agenda packet is a page beginning “Targets based on support for regulatory measures,” and within it, the goals are designated with letters and the original targets within those goals are also designated with letters so it is a little confusing. She continued that she pulled out what she thought might be accomplished relatively easily – like when they asked the City Council to write the letter in support of the EPA’s Clean Power Plan. She pulled out specific goals within this that seem to fit together. One, for instance, is “Garner input from the development community and other stakeholders to ensure the development of a [building] code easy to understand and implement, while achieving the City’s sustainable development and energy conservation goals.” She continued that part of what she came up with, relating to both Building & Development and Energy Systems goals and targets, is a vision of an opportunity for coalition building or collaboration where they could facilitate a summit, with representatives from the City’s Code Enforcement Department, insulation contractors, renewable energy contractors, Eversource Energy, educational institutions, KSC’s Technology Design and Safety Department, Cheshire Housing Authority, and so on and so forth, to look at existing building code for retrofitting existing buildings.

Dr. Shedd asked if Keene has adopted the international energy efficiency code. Ms. Chalice replied that she does not know and will look. Dr. Shedd continued that the summit could create a simple document that would tell business owners, home owners, contractors, etc., what standards are allowable or desirable. Also out of this, they could maybe brainstorm about what kind of incentives can be offered either by Eversource, the City tax structure, or something else, to encourage energy retrofits and renewable energy installations. This would not be impossible to pull together and would meet a number of these targets, or at least take a step in that direction.

Dr. Shedd continued that in the matrix they do not allude to the Keene School District (KSD) at all, and it has a number of big buildings. Some are quite old and they do not know the energy efficiency. Maybe they should talk with the KSD about energy efficiency upgrades, and what incentives there might be. Some have great solar access on their roofs – maybe they can look at that. If the schools are emergency centers for storms, it would be good to have a renewable energy system in place.

Chair Risley stated that regarding the local climate-appropriate economy, she thinks goal B makes the most sense – “Increase the vitality and competitiveness of local businesses.” Also, a target she wants them to focus on is to “identify economic development policy and goals that incorporate sustainability.” They have some great potential partners, like the Hannah Grimes

Center, Chamber of Commerce, and Monadnock Buy Local (MBL). Regarding the transportation section of the matrix, she has a document that has since been updated, after she talked with J.B. Mack of Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) and Monadnock Region Transportation Management Association (MRTMA). The goal they could focus on is “Provide sustainable transportation modes locally and regionally within the opportunity of transportation systems.” She suggests the target of “Identify and implement transportation demand management techniques.” MRTMA wants to assess car-sharing possibilities in Keene. The bus service target is something they had been working on for a while and it has been very difficult to find funding. Having an informational meeting about car-sharing is something they know they could accomplish. Dr. Shedd added that a good resource is [mobilitylab.org](http://mobilitylab.org), with good explanations of “transportation demand management.”

Chair Risley asked what the next steps should be for the subcommittee. Dr. Shedd stated that she wants to hear ideas from non-subcommittee members. Councilor Powers replied that he needs to digest it more. He continued that they have to be sure to make it something they can achieve. Maybe they should break it down into even smaller bites. There are only seven CCP members. But these are all excellent points. Chair Risley stated that the subcommittee will establish a meeting schedule and start reaching out to these partners and assess their interest in working with the CCP. They will try fleshing out the summit idea a little more.

Dr. Shedd reported that on June 11, Eversource is sponsoring a four-hour workshop on energy efficiency strategies for municipalities. She continued that it is a good tie-in to what the CCP is talking about. Ms. Chalice replied that some City staff members are going. Chair Risley asked if one of them can come to the CCP’s next meeting to give an update.

Dr. Shedd reported that on June 17, NH Local Energy Solutions is having a webinar on launching a solar campaign. Ms. Chalice reported that the joint Planning, Licenses, and Development (PLD) Committee/Planning Board will have John Kondos update them on the Community Solar Initiative next Monday. Chair Risley replied that the CCP had passed a motion asking Ms. Purinton to write a memo asking for the CCP to be on the agenda, to give an update. She asked if that is still possible. Ms. Chalice replied that she will look into it.

## **6. New Members**

Chair Risley reported that Peter Hansel is now a CCP member. Mr. Cornelius asked about other new members. Chair Risley replied that membership is full once Mr. Hansel is here, if Mr. Veercamp attends, too. She continued that there is one opening for an alternate member. The people that CCP members suggested did not live in Keene, so they now need to come up with more ideas. Mr. Cornelius replied that recommends the CCP write to KSC and AUNE and ask them to appoint or suggest someone. Chair Risley asked if he can draft that. Mr. Cornelius replied yes. Councilor Powers replied that the Mayor should be the one to send that. Ms. Chalice replied that Mr. Cornelius can draft that and she can give it to the Mayor. She suggests the sustainability coordinator. Councilor Powers replied that he will mention to the Mayor that the sustainability coordinator would be a good alternate member, if they live in Keene. Mr. Cornelius spoke more about the idea of asking the head of each school to send someone. Dr. Shedd agreed that it would be good to have an alternate member from the sustainability office or the Climate Center.

**7. Letter to City Council re: Monadnock Buy Local**

Chair Risley stated that she presented to the PLD and Finance, Organization, and Personnel (FOP) Committees about the City joining MBL as a general member, and both committees recommended it to the City Council. She continued that it goes to the City Council tomorrow for approval, and it looks good.

**8. Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 1, 2015**

**9. Adjournment**

Chair Risley adjourned the meeting at 9:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Britta Reida, Minute-taker