

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

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

**Wednesday, July 1, 2015**

**8:00 AM**

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

**Members Present:**

Jennifer Risley, Chair  
Dr. Ann Shedd  
Peter Hansel

**Staff Present:**

Rhett Lamb, Planning

**Others Present:**

**Members Not Present:**

Robert Kelley, Vice Chair  
Thomas Powers, Councilor  
Richard (Dick) Cornelius, Alternate  
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. June 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Shedd made a motion to approve the minutes of June 3, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. Hansel, and passed by unanimous vote.

**3. Complete Streets Flyer/Event August 29 and September 19, 2015**

Chair Risley reported that when the subcommittee meets they will talk about this more. She continued that the flyer is mostly a call for volunteers, and they are looking for loans, not donations. Part of Marlboro Street will be turned into a Complete Streets demonstration project. They are talking to Maker Space about creating a mini-park with possibly a putt-putt green, food trucks, and so on and so forth. It will be an opportunity for the CCP to talk about the Climate Adaptation Plan. They are looking for help spreading the word. The Monadnock Region Transportation Management Association is now called Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST).

Dr. Shedd asked if it will be just a block and a half of Marlboro Street. Mr. Lamb replied yes, the widest section. He continued that folks from the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) have done a great job and businesses in the area love the idea. Chair Risley stated that she has been reaching out to Monadnock Buy Local (MBL) members. Maybe they could do pop-up retail. There are lots of great opportunities if they can get people to understand what they are doing. Dr. Shedd asked if it is a Saturday. Mr. Lamb replied yes, September 19, and August 29 in Swanzey. They will begin setting up on Marlboro St. on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. Chair Risley added that there is a meeting at Hannah Grimes about fleshing out the volunteering/help.

Mr. Lamb reported they are working on Complete Streets policy; it should get to the City Council in July. He continued that then they will have more clarity about the demonstration project. The draft is not yet available; it is still being worked out.

Mr. Hansel asked if it is being taken from a resolution to a policy. Mr. Lamb replied yes. He continued that the intention is that whenever the City is doing street work they always integrate Complete Streets elements into it whenever possible, recognizing that some streets are not possible. The streets will be in categories with lists of elements to consider each time work is being done. The idea is to include these design elements or clearly explain why they cannot be included.

Dr. Shedd stated that one of the CCP's goals for this year was to create a checklist for City projects, regarding how projects fit with the goals of the Climate Adaptation Plan. Chair Risley replied that they were not sure if anything exists like that; they thought they would give it a try. Mr. Lamb replied that they should find a way for staff to talk about it internally first, so the CCP does not spring this on them. Chair Risley replied that they do not want to work on something that already exists or is not helpful. Mr. Lamb replied that a good approach would be to try and help people have another set of lenses to use when they are doing their work, instead of telling people to do something new, which might not go over well. These professions have been around for a long time. Building energy around it is important; that is what they have seen with Complete Streets policy. Mr. Hansel replied that an example is that it took a long time to get the State to buy into the roundabout approach, and then suddenly it took off.

Chair Risley stated that for the next three items, she does not have anything specific to discuss in regards to them. She continued that she just wanted to make sure they stayed on the agenda.

#### **4. CCP's 2015 Goals**

Chair Risley asked if anyone had questions or comments. Mr. Hansel replied that he has not yet digested it all. He continued that some comments from last month's minutes had to do with trying to buy into the reduction of carbon emissions that the state has and apply that to the city. He wonders how they would measure that and if there is an effective way of measuring the city's emissions. Chair Risley replied yes, there is a report due in 2015.

Mr. Hansel asked how they get the information for the inventory. Mr. Lamb replied that the City follows the local government protocol and uses software called ClearPath, which they get through their membership with ICLEI (Local Governments For Sustainability). He continued that there are thresholds of measurement, from looking at fuel bills from every entity, to making estimates and using what information they have in more detail. For the City they have fuel and electric bills to document energy use. The City information is very accurate but sometimes difficult to gather since there are so many departments - they have an intern gather that information based on the protocol. For the community it is much more difficult. They reach out to organizations that do these types of evaluations - for example, vehicle miles traveled is how they document transportation. He continued that the community information is not perfect. They also use information collected by state and local entities.

Mr. Hansel asked about fuel distributors. Mr. Lamb replied that the City talks to them to see about fuel used to heat buildings, but those companies, such as Eversource Energy, do not really want to share their information. The City does its best. Community-based information is a lot more of an estimate, but if they are consistent about how they use it, the trends can be comparable.

Mr. Hansel asked if a sampling of people in the community could provide data, like Markem Imaj or Cheshire Medical Center. Chair Risley replied that the CCP had implemented the 10% Challenge and Green Business of the Year Award, and then the City, the Hannah Grimes Center, and MBL all met to talk about whether the 10% Challenge was worth it and what else to do. She continued that they talked about doing some kind of inventory. There are some tools that are getting close to being useful for the community and are being piloted in about 12 communities right now. The City does not have the capacity to re-launch the 10% Challenge. The Monadnock Sustainability Network (MSN) took it on but then went in the direction of solar power instead and they are now focusing on that.

Mr. Lamb replied that they used two interns for the last greenhouse gas emissions inventory. He continued that one of them worked behind the scenes on data collection and data crunching, but did not produce a report, and then another intern came in to create the report, which has an explanation of methodology. What tends to happen is the protocols change over time and it leads to problems in comparing data, although the protocols are becoming more consistent. Mr. Hansel stated that there is probably no way of measuring the carbon emissions going into the air. Mr. Lamb replied no, it is all based on inputs. He continued that the numbers are all estimates but they are getting a little better and more consistent. This inventory is a big job. They have a budget for two interns, starting in January or February. The interns will go to work looking at bills and have the inventory done hopefully a year from now.

Mr. Lamb reported that the City Council, through Councilors Duffy and Hague in particular, is asking staff to prepare a Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) implementation schedule for the next couple of years. He continued that that is happening at the Planning, Licenses, and Development/Planning Board Committee. This CCP goal-setting is really helpful. They will review everything that is out there so they can see all the priorities that are within the big umbrella of the CMP. The CCP's work is helping him do that.

Dr. Shedd asked when they are asking for the report. Mr. Lamb replied the second Monday in August. Chair Risley replied that as the CCP talks more about goal alignment, it is great to get Mr. Lamb's feedback so they can do more refining. She continued that there are so many goals in the Climate Adaptation Plan. Mr. Lamb replied that the matrix is well developed and well categorized. Dr. Shedd replied that the subcommittee is trying to look at specific areas within the matrix, and starting to find some specific actions within those categories.

Chair Risley asked if the Climate Adaptation Plan expires. Mr. Lamb replied no, 2015 was the goal for measuring progress. He continued that those are all mitigation goals, not adaptation goals. Dr. Shedd stated that a lot of targets in the matrix have already passed. Chair Risley asked if there is a procedure for updating the Climate Adaptation Plan. Mr. Lamb replied yes, it starts with this group, and probably through the Planning Board. Chair Risley asked if the

presentation in August is when the conversation about updating the Climate Adaptation Plan happens. Mr. Lamb replied that there is a difference between updating the Climate Adaptation Plan and giving a CMP schedule. He continued that they are not in the position to re-write the CMP right now, and probably then not the Climate Adaptation Plan, either. Maybe the thing to do is look at implementation from the CCP's perspective and see what is really out of date from the plan itself. If things need to change because of the time frame that is one thing, but changing the goals entirely is another. Chair Risley replied that she does not always see the objectives as getting to the targets. She continued that there might be a better way other than spending time re-writing the dates when she is not psyched about the targets. Mr. Lamb replied yes, re-setting the targets might be a recommendation. Everyone realizes they are no longer valid.

Dr. Shedd stated that there was a global conference on climate change, which global goals came out of. She continued that the City's goals have been modest compared to State and national goals, so they will have to recommend new goals. Mr. Lamb replied yes, but they can re-set the targets without rewriting the plan, because a lot of it is still valid. Chair Risley replied that they can start with the four focuses and see how challenging that is. She thanked Mr. Lamb for his input, which is helpful.

Mr. Hansel stated that about six or seven years ago there was a study done of the culverts in the region, mostly for trying to help amphibian migration. He continued that another issue raised was the size of culverts - Antioch University New England (AUNE) Professor Mike Simpson has been espousing reviewing the culvert system in the City and region to make sure they are designed for the climate they are facing now instead of the climate for which they were built. He asked if looking at that data is in the plan.

Mr. Lamb replied that the City accepts the premise that many culverts are under-sized, without going through the exercise of looking at them all. He continued that the intent was to look at the need for the size of the opening when a culvert was going to be fixed or replaced, one by one. Dr. Shedd noted that there is a target in the matrix about assessing the culverts and replacing as needed. Mr. Lamb replied that to some extent they are doing that. He continued that the best example is Beaver Brook. It is so high in the watershed that they are affected by flooding. There are 13 openings between Old Concord Rd. and where Beaver Brook is near Agway. In that stretch the whole stream drops about seven feet. Many of the crossings are old. When these bridges come up for re-building through the State or City, the culverts are then re-evaluated for size. What the City argues is that you cannot do it that way because if you open up one in the middle you will cause problems further down in the next segment of the stream, so they are pushing the engineering folks for looking at this holistically. They have agreed, so there is a hydraulic and hydrologic study of Beaver Brook coming up, to assess ways to reduce flooding, including finding temporary flood storage. The study would look at the options and give a schedule for how to do something about it in the long term.

Chair Risley asked if AUNE's east side flooding study is connected. Mr. Lamb replied sort of, but the AUNE study is more about flooding's social impacts. He continued that there are a lot of bridges and culverts. The City probably will not put money in to study how big they should be and how to replace them; they will most likely address them one by one. They are trying to do that already. He talked about a current culvert that is being replaced, under Main Street. He

explained the location and talked about how it is being made larger. He continued that however, the one 30 feet upstream is too small, so making this one culvert bigger does not matter so much. You have to look at the whole thing.

#### **5. Goal Alignment Document**

Chair Risley stated that as Dr. Shedd already brought up, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is still working on the global goals. She continued that feedback from some people at last month's CCP meeting is that adopting the State plan is not enough and they have to look to the latest science, but the latest science is not quite there yet. Dr. Shedd replied that also, individual countries are still sending in their "intended nationally determined contributions." They are going for 10 year action targets, in the range of a 30% to 60% reduction in greenhouse gases. But all of this is looking at the bigger 2050 target. If the recommendation is for the City to align with the State's goal of 80% reduction by 2050, the CCP will not take it to the City Council as that. They might set some interim targets along the way. Ten years is probably a reasonable place to look at again. Maybe the citizenry could get a better grip on that, as opposed to what they are doing in the next 35 years.

Mr. Lamb replied that this group is where the rubber meets the road. He continued that goals get set based on theory and logic and science, but fundamentally it comes down to individuals' behavior, and where is the information on that? That is something a local group is better equipped to handle. Dr. Shedd stated that the City has made better progress on municipal emissions but has not met the target. Mr. Lamb replied that the City might meet the target; the report does not take the ESCO project into account. Chair Risley stated that regarding adopting the State goal, the City's current goal is for 2015 and thus needs to be updated. She continued that originally the CCP's thought was to recommend 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Mr. Lamb replied that he does not think they will ever change the measurement from 1995, because it was hard enough to find the 1995 data and that was the baseline they set, but they could recommend a certain reduction below 1995 levels by a certain date.

#### **6. Climate Adaptation Plan Subcommittee Summary**

Chair Risley reported that the subcommittee will meet the second Tuesday of the month here at City Hall. She continued that Lee Llangella in the Planning Department wants an agenda a few days before. Mr. Lamb replied that they need that at least a week before. He asked if the CCP plans on creating any more subcommittees. Chair Risley replied no. Mr. Lamb replied that once they have an official subcommittee they need to have a minute-taker. Chair Risley replied that Ms. Llangella said a summary is okay. Mr. Lamb replied that the subcommittee could keep its own notes or they could have a formal minute-taker. Dr. Shedd added that they have already voted, last month, to officially create the subcommittee.

#### **7. AUNE Climate Summary**

Andrew Graham reported that he will be the liaison from AUNE's Center for Climate Resilience and Community Preparedness and this group. He continued that Jake Pipp was standing in for him in June because his (Mr. Graham's) hiring paperwork had not yet been completed. The position of the Center is that their meetings now are fully geared towards conference planning. It might not be a good use of time for a CCP member to come sit in on those meetings. They currently happen irregularly and are all about conference planning. In the fall, Community

Cities for Climate Protection Committee meeting minutes,  
July 1, 2015

Resilience Around Climate Change is a course that Christa Daniels is teaching. She is interested in finding out what projects are going on in the City this fall for potential collaboration. Chair Risley thanked him for being the liaison and asked if he wants to be on the agenda each month. Mr. Graham replied yes.

**8. City Council Vote on Letter to Council Re: Monadnock Buy Local**

Chair Risley reported that the City is now a member of MBL. Mr. Lamb noted the need to send a check from the Planning Department.

**9. Other**

Dr. Shedd reported that she spoke with Mari Brunner about the presentation she attended about the Climate Negotiations Simulation game. She continued that Ms. Brunner says it is geared more towards academic settings. It sounds like a great way to engage people, if the CCP wants to encourage Keene State College, AUNE, or Keene High School to look into the program for the fall. It is an exercise to do before the September United Nations conference. But it is not something for the CCP to jump into. Chair Risley asked what the next steps are for the CCP. Dr. Shedd replied that she will talk with Ms. Brunner again.

Chair Risley reported that it is a week of celebrating local businesses. She continued that the Indie Challenge is about being mindful about every transaction you have, and about supporting the local community. Mr. Hansel replied that that is a great initiative. He asked if it is nationwide. Chair Risley replied yes, and in Canada.

Chair Risley announced that the next meeting is Wednesday, August 5, 2015, at 8:00 AM. Dr. Shedd replied that she will be out of town.

**10. Adjournment**

Chair Risley adjourned the meeting at 8:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted by  
Britta Reida, Minute-taker