

City of Keene
New Hampshire

CITIES FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 8:00 AM 2nd Floor Committee Rm, City Hall

Members Present:

Dr. Ann Shedd, Chair
Thomas Powers, Councilor
Jennifer Risley
Peter Hansel
Richard (Dick) Cornelius, Alternate (8:01 AM)
Andrew Graham (8:04 AM)

Staff Present:

Michele Chalice, Planning

Others Present:

Members Not Present:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. October 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Risley made a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2015, which was seconded by Councilor Powers, and passed by a vote of 4 to 0.

Mr. Cornelius arrived.

3. CCP Goals for 2015

Chair Shedd stated that they can revisit the goals in January, when they are back up to full membership, and see if the goals should be modified. She continued that she thinks it is reasonable to set goals for two years instead of one year. She asked if there is any other discussion about goals. Ms. Risley stated that many are being addressed in other agenda items.

4. Intern Recruitment at AUNE Intern Fair – Status

Chair Shedd reported that she went to the Intern Fair and Ms. Chalice provided her with materials to share, including the expectations for the intern, and the 2008 interim Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions update. She continued that a few people stopped to talk and one student took the internship description. Mr. Graham has expressed interest.

Ms. Chalice stated that she neglected to put “draft” on the description and to sit down with Planning Director Rhett Lamb. She continued that he thinks it is imperative to talk with ICLEI

first to see if they have updated guidelines about how to do this report. They want to update it to make sure they are providing the best guidance. She will talk with ICLEI. They also need to make sure they have clear guidance on their internal processes, too. This was based on past data and now they are going forward. She also needs to talk with the person who has been handling the bills. There are several steps. She will be doing that over the next month or so and modifying the intern description. There is money for either two positions or one position that extends longer than they initially thought.

Mr. Graham arrived.

Ms. Risley asked about timing - is there anything the CCP should be doing? Ms. Chalice replied not right now – she will be in touch. Mr. Hansel asked about AUNE’s timeline. Ms. Chalice asked Mr. Graham to keep them updated. Mr. Graham replied that it is a relatively self-directed process by the students. He continued that his peers are now thinking about what to do – it is roughly 20 hours a week for 11 weeks during the spring semester and folks are now figuring that out. Some folks put it off until about mid-January. Ms. Chalice replied that that is the target – the City does not like to put things off until the last minute, but there are many priorities in the Planning Department right now.

Councilor Powers asked if an AUNE intern could work on this for the City beyond AUNE’s internship term. Mr. Graham replied yes. Councilor Powers stated that it would have to be completed by June 30, 2016 for budget purposes. Chair Shedd stated that a CCP goal was to have the report available in time to do a presentation to the City Council in June. She continued that they already recognize that the 1995 data and 2008 data were put through different methodologies. Her question is, if ICLEI is again changing their methodology, will the data still be comparable? Ms. Chalice replied that she will talk with ICLEI about that; she, personally, would rather not change the recipe again. Discussion continued. Chair Shedd continued that the 2008 data was not put together until 2012. It might make sense to just stick with the process that was used three years ago. Ms. Chalice replied that it also depends on Mr. Lamb’s and Ms. Brunner’s opinions and Mr. Lamb’s judgment. Discussion continued about methodology. Chair Shedd asked Ms. Chalice to keep in touch with Mr. Graham about this. Ms. Chalice replied yes.

5. 2006-2008 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Ms. Chalice reported that to answer a previous question, she did not see anything about schools' emissions. She continued that she put this online, because she did not see it there. Ms. Risley replied that it is online, just buried. Ms. Chalice replied that now it is on the CCP’s page and visible for anyone who wants to see it. Chair Shedd stated that she has two hard copies today if anyone wants to borrow one. Mr. Hansel replied that he would like to see one.

6. Climate Adaptation Plan Subcommittee Summary

Ms. Risley reported that she was set to meet with Mr. Mack about car-sharing but he was ill so they will reschedule for some time in the next couple weeks. She continued that he is digging out the research he had done through this work at the Southwest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC). The Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) is interested in doing car-sharing. She shared what the CCP had put together, examples of feasibility studies, pros and cons, etc., and there was enough that they agreed to keep moving forward. She does not

think the CCP Committee could take this on as a project – it is about finding the right organization that can. That is moving forward. Monadnock Buy Local (MBL) is doing work regarding the local economy goals. She is watching a webinar about procurement in city government, which is exciting.

Chair Shedd reported that for the building and energy piece, she has contacts at Keene Housing, Cheshire Housing Trust, and SWRPC. She continued that the original goal was to engage the private sector, but it would be interesting to get the public and non-profit sectors together at the table to see if they could increase energy efficiency through collaboration. She is not connected to the private sector and has been unsuccessful in reaching Eversource Energy.

Mr. Hansel offered to help. He continued that he was struck by the huge increase in commercial and industrial sector emissions. He could not figure out how that happened. They put in the Monadnock Marketplace, but 2008 was in the middle of the recession. Many businesses had four-day weeks. Something seems skewed there. If it has increased because of development, why is there such a draw? Something is happening.

Chair Shedd replied that there has been a lot of empty space at Monadnock Marketplace that presumably has not been using power. She continued that it would be interesting to dig into the numbers more, with Mr. Hansel's background, and see if they can tease that apart. Ms. Risley replied that that would be great for the December subcommittee meeting. Chair Shedd stated that she heard a report that looked at NH relative to other states in its energy efficiency upgrades and NH could be a lot higher up on that list.

7. Status of NH Net-Metering Cap Letter Request

Chair Shedd reported that she heard from Ms. Chalice that this will be at the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure (MSFI) Committee meeting on November [10], and public input will be allowed at that meeting. She continued that she will let John Kondos know that it is on the agenda.

Chair Shedd stated that what was submitted to City Council was a transcript of the portion of the CCP Committee minutes when they discussed this. She asked, if the City Council approves the concept of sending the letter, does the CCP need to send their letter through the channels again? Ms. Chalice replied that she thought it was a request to write and send the letter. Councilor Powers replied that probably it would be the Mayor and the City Council signing and sending the letter. He continued that the CCP Committee's role is to draft the letter. Ms. Chalice replied that she was going to use a verbatim letter from John Kondos. Chair Shedd replied that she will look at that.

Ms. Risley reported that the Monadnock Food Co-op's solar project did get in under the cap, which is exciting. Chair Shedd asked if the funding is put together for that. Mr. Hansel replied yes, but there are wrinkles to iron out, and the lawyers are working on that. He continued that they think they have a contractor who is a good prospect. Chair Shedd asked about the Historic District Commission's involvement. Mr. Hansel replied that that has been addressed.

8. AUNE Climate Center Updates

Mr. Graham reported that they are done with conference preparation. He continued that registration went live. They can now focus on other things. The possibility of virtually attending the conference, which the CCP had asked about, is still under discussion. They are trying to figure out how to get enough projectors for all of the presentation rooms. He imagines that it will all be recorded and at least available after the fact. Mr. Lamb's presentation will go into some kind of archive here. They plan on sending a video of each presentation home with the presenters. He is working on an evaluation plan for the conference. He would love to speak with anyone who was at the Manchester conference in 2014 and get feedback on the evaluation process for that. He and another student are starting to look at impacts on east Keene flooding, in the broader context of some kind of documentary project.

Chair Shedd asked about the logic model. Mr. Graham replied that he is happy to put one together but will not be able to start until December 15. Chair Shedd asked him to send a sample of what a logic model looks like.

Ms. Chalice stated that she can give Mr. Graham the community engagement files from the Marlboro Street project, regarding the Beaver Brook process. Mr. Graham replied that that would be helpful. Ms. Chalice asked him to email her.

9. Other Climate Group Updates

Chair Shedd asked about the City's EP3 group collaborating with Keene State College (KSC). Ms. Chalice reported that they met to talk about energy efficiency and they decided to let others know that the City is making these efforts. She continued that the idea is to maybe join together, knowing that larger contracts can sometimes have better results in terms of negotiating. They met with the person at KSC who looks at energy consumption, and talked about both entities' efforts at energy efficiency and what they might be able to do together. KSC uses a crude oil and the City uses a different type, but it may be possible to join with other schools in the area and through a broker have larger contracts. They also talked about the notions of sustainability and resilience, taking the next step up in the thought process.

Ms. Chalice explained that the EP3 committee is an environmental purchasing program – the City is trying to have all people involved in purchasing in the City think more carefully about what the City purchases, to buy more environmentally conscious products that speak to their values without raising their costs. There are ways to do that now. They are talking amongst themselves to make sure they are thinking clearly about that and talking about it with others in the community. A press release just went out yesterday about this.

Mr. Hansel asked if the City is connecting with the school district. Ms. Chalice replied not yet, although the EP3 has talked about connecting with them. Chair Shedd asked, weren't the City and SAU 29 looking at joint purchasing? She continued that she thought that was more for budget purposes than for sustainability purposes. Councilor Powers replied yes, they have made several attempts with that. He continued that it is moving along but not at the pace that some people think it ought to. It gets bogged down in bureaucracy. It is one of Councilor Clark's priority items. They will continue to push for this. What keeps coming up is that buying locally is a big challenge.

Cities for Climate Protection Committee meeting minutes,
November 4, 2015

Chair Shedd replied that they might support local distributors of products made far away. Ms. Risley replied that MBL is looking at that, e.g. what the best practices are that result in what they are looking for. She continued that the CCP Committee has talked about how the EP3 group was dormant for a while and it is great that they are active again and it is a good time to look at procurement practices and how that fits into the local economy. Ms. Chalice suggested that Ms. Risley would be a good person to join that committee; her perspective would be good to have. Discussion continued. Ms. Risley replied that she will follow up with that.

Councilor Powers stated that 28 years ago the City used to take care of the County and SAU 29 vehicles at Public Works Department and now they do not; it has gotten spread out. He continued that staff has been reduced at Public Works, but they could explore this again. People need to be talking together. As the price of business keeps going up, they should be able to talk more easily about this. The IT Department used to be one system, too, for the City and the SAU. Chair Shedd stated that she is glad to hear that part of the point of the collaboration is not just to save money but also to increase energy efficiency.

Chair Shedd reported that next week there is a “Feast on This!” film festival and some of it relates to the CCP Committee’s agricultural goals in the matrix. She encouraged people to go to the website: <http://mfccoalition.org/feast>. It is from the Monadnock Farming Coalition.

Mr. Hansel reported that at a recent Friends of Local Space meeting, a member brought up composting and asked if the City has ever discussed composting on a municipal scale – i.e. residential pick up. Ms. Risley replied that the Monadnock Buy Local talked briefly about it with Mr. Lamb and Ms. Chalice. She continued that Mr. Lamb said that the City had talked about it a little bit but it had not gone anywhere. Ms. Chalice replied that maybe there is not enough demand. She spoke of composting happening at the Monadnock Food Co op and The Works. Mr. Hansel replied that AUNE composts. Mr. Graham replied yes, and he submitted a proposal for a project to audit it. He continued that the new café contractor is not composting. His question is where it goes – who is the contractor who deals with the compost? Mr. Hansel asked if KSC has composting. Chair Shedd replied that they used to, but it was students driving the compost away and there were safety issues and the program was terminated several years ago.

Discussion continued about compost. Ms. Risley stated that food waste is a hot topic now so it is a good time to be having these conversations. She heard there is policy change going on at the State level removing some barriers to composting, but does not have details. Councilor Powers asked about having Duncan Watson come in to talk about this. Ms. Chalice offered to ask him to come in. Chair Shedd asked her to check his availability for December or January. Mr. Cornelius asked if the City composts leaves and yard waste. Ms. Chalice replied yes. Discussion continued about how composting works in Burlington and Peterborough. Chair Shedd asked if anyone wants to champion a project on researching compost. Mr. Hansel replied that he will ask if the person who brought it up at the Friends meeting if he is interested.

Chair Shedd reported that on November 14 and 15, in Nashua, the Citizens Climate Lobby is having a conference. She continued that on the afternoon of November 14 there are some public education workshops from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. She is going.

10. Membership Recruitment – Number of Members – Status

Chair Shedd stated that Ms. Brunner emailed the Mayor. She asked Ms. Chalice about the status. Ms. Chalice replied that she has not heard. She continued that she will contact Helen Mattson about that. Ms. Risley reported that Megan Kennedy is still on the members list, but she is sending another letter of resignation. Chair Shedd stated that Mr. Hansel is still showing as an “alternate” on the list. Ms. Risley replied that she will send the letter she has, from the Mayor, out to everyone – it says that Mr. Hansel is a full member.

Ms. Chalice stated that there are only a few City Council committee meetings before the holidays, but she will do her best to get this ironed out. Councilor Powers stated that the Mayor may want to wait until the first of January to appoint new members, but he would like to help him get started on that sooner. Ms. Chalice stated that if Councilor Powers handles this, she will not go to Ms. Mattson.

Discussion continued about membership. The committee determined that in January, if the members are Chair Shedd, Councilor Powers, Mr. Hansel, Mr. Graham, and Ms. Brunner, they will still have two vacancies. Ms. Chalice asked if Mr. Cornelius was interested in becoming a regular member. Mr. Cornelius replied that he would like to stay as an alternate. Chair Shedd stated that she will check in with Professor Brehme at KSC again to see if he is interested in joining.

11. Other

Ms. Risley reported that Plaid Friday is the day after Thanksgiving. She explained that is about people (about 300 last year) taking a fraction of what they would normally spend at chain stores and instead spending it locally. Then the Mayor has designated Saturday as Small Business Saturday.

Chair Shedd reported that the weekend after Thanksgiving, 350.org and other environmental groups are organizing marches and events in regards to the climate conference in Paris. Discussion continued.

12. Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 2, 2015

13. Adjournment

Chair Shedd adjourned the meeting at 8:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted by
Britta Reida, Minute-taker