



Harvard Climate Initiative Committee

Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm on Zoom

Members: Present: Ellen Sachs Leicher, Sharon McCarthy, Deborah O'Rourke, Christiane Turnheim, Rich Marcello, , Staci Donahue

Guests – DSkauen (un-identified), Mario Cardenas

Opening statement in compliance with MGL open meeting law.

- 1- Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2024: D. O'Rourke motioned to approve, S. McCarthy 2nd.
Roll call vote: unanimous.
- 2- Outreach – D. O'Rourke
 - a. Earth Day 2024 (April 22) we are getting lots of questions about what HCIC is doing this year, but we are not doing a big event – just lots of small events. E. Sachs Leicher will contact the Press with a statement to say we're focusing on lots of small events. Will probably do at the same time as the announcement for the 4/23 talk.
 - b. April 23rd at 7pm Jane Flegal is speaking at Volunteers Hall on Resiliency. Her focus will be:
 - i. how we got to this point,
 - ii. worldwide where it's going well,
 - iii. how we can we do better,
 - iv. how small towns can help.
 - c. Advertising for the 4/23 talk will be an ad in the paper, notice board, blast email. Really working to get the word out. Focus on the week of 4/12 for the Press.
 - d. Looking to have another 'Know Your Land' walk in May. It's in early planning process.
 - e. People are still signing up for Heat Pump Coaching but interest is starting to dwindle. Might be time to do another session possibly in June to get publicity out there.
 - f. Ellen spoke with a meteorologist who could do a presentation using MIT software. It is an interactive session that shows the worldwide impacts with data impacts of various actions. Would apply for MVP monies to sponsor speaker to come possibly to Bromfield or a combined adult/student event. Targeting May after the AP exams are over but before people leave for the summer. EN-ROADS is the name of the program.
- 3- Transfer Station Committee (R. Marcello)
 - a. Composting was supported by HCIC but is possibly not on the list with the committee since the number of people interested to date does not support the numbers needed for

the Black Earth service. They were also not sure if composting would work at the transfer station or individual pick up. They are in favor of it overall.

- b. Generally, because it's an ad hoc temporary group they are focused on the big picture items like the DPW renovation and the uncapped existing dump. They have no marketing/outreach capabilities so they are not able to do as much as they would like.
 - c. E. Sachs Leicher noted that at the Green Team meeting today, composting at the school is way down and the trash has increased with the new vendor that uses significant amounts of packaging. The Green Team is working on getting students to compost better. The Green Team and E. Sachs Leicher want to meet with the Superintendent about the issues and also School Committee that had agreed to goals to reduce the volume of trash.
- 4- Grant Outline – Generic Climate Grant Proposal (R. Marcello)
- a. R. Marcello has organized the generic grant proposal to cover the items that are listed in our climate action plan.
 - b. R. Marcello reviewed the basic structure of how the grant request form is configured so that it can be easily edited to be tailored quickly to whichever grant we're applying for.
 - c. Committee members provided some feedback to some of the sections.
 - d. HCIC recognizes that it's hard for a group of volunteers to find the grants that match our CAP goals. R. Marcello/E. Sachs Leicher will try to attend an MPAC meeting to see if there's some listing of state and federal grants that might support some of the items on the generic list. S. Donahue will check with MRPC to see if they have an updated list of grants for this quarter.
 - e. Ag Commission should review their sections and bring feedback to R. Marcello. Many of the items listed are more for very large farms and not the small farms that typically exist in Harvard.
- 5- Worcester Region Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant update:
- a. Town Planner/Planning Board submitted letter to the EPA in support of the Worcester Regional Planning Commission for most of the options that WRPC listed for the regional pollution reduction initiatives. Will have to wait to see if anything comes from the EPA in support of the items listed. (letter attached for reference)
- 6- Green House Gas Emission update
- a. Looking for support to get this updated. Needs support for data input. E. Sachs Leicher may see if any Green Team member is interested in helping.
- 7- Town Meeting
- a. Nothing specifically related to the CAP or HCIC this session.
- 8- Other Business
- a. Tree Bylaw: From the MVP Grant monies will be heading to Fall Town Meeting in October 2024. The consultants presented options and first pass has been completed. Will meet with Tree Warden soon to get input and further guidance.
 - b. TAC approved asking officially for parking for the MART shuttle. Once established, it would be great for HCIC to get the word out that we will have parking available to use the MART service.
 - c. C. Turnheim noted that Ag Commission is going to respond to a request from the American Farmland Trust (Note: Here is the info about it: The USDA's Natural

Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) wants to ensure that all farmlands that are eligible for its preservation funding program are recognized.

9- S. McCarthy moved to adjourn. D. O'Rourke seconded. Unanimous vote 9:11pm

10- Next meeting April 11th at 7:45pm via zoom.