

Climate Change Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 11, 2024

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Hadley Senior Center

Members Present: Jack Czajkowski, Kathy Nelson, Michael Docter, Marian Parker, Catalina Arrubla, Kelly Minton, Cathy Niedziela (new member)

Also Present: Select Board Liaison- Jane Nevinsmith, Peter Matuszko, Tony Fyden, Susan Melchin, Stephen Devine, Thomas Fil, Carol Kostek, Stephen Szymkowicz, Thomas Quinlan Jr., Billy Spitzer

1) Call to Order The Climate Change Committee convened an in-person meeting on January 11, 2024 at the Hadley Senior Center at 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA 01035, there and then to act on the following agenda.

2) Welcome new member Cathy Niedziela

3) Public Comment

Tony Fyden and Susan Melchin commented about Select Board liaison and remarks made at a Board of Health meeting.

4) Approved Minutes

Kathy Nelson asked for a vote to approve the minutes from December 2023. The committee moved to vote and it was unanimously approved.

5) Updates

5.1 Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code Presentation by Chris Mason from Green Communities Western Mass Regional Coordinator and Art Pakatur, Energy Code Specialist from PSD Consulting. They put this code into context referring to the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act.

Upon conclusion of their presentation, there was time for questions, answers and comments. Tom Quinlan, Hadley Building Inspector said this is all coming to pass, the Stretch Code will be updated every 3 years and does not think Hadley should jump into the opt in code. He also said that fewer homes have been built in Hadley in the past year than in the year before.

Jack Czajkowski said decline in the interest in projects, commercial projects and other projects are not happening as much due to the increase in interest rates.

Billy Spitzer, CEO of the Hitchcock Center took a moment to comment on their living building, being net zero, having heat pumps, making their own electricity with solar. He said it is a very pleasant place to work, very comfortable and low cost to operate. The air quality is very good.

5.2 Speaker Series - Farm Conversation

Jack Czajkowski started off by letting folks know about the “No More Normal” event happening at Denise Barstow-Mann’s farm with a specific focus on dairy farmers that was happening January 22, 2024.

There is no date set for the vegetable farmers gathering, but will involve Ellen Drews from Astarte Farm, Wally Czajkowski from Plainville Farm, CISA and many others to discuss how farmers are adapting to climate change and how climate change is impacting agriculture. HCCC would cohost and it would be held at Plainville Farm. We are hoping to have many other people attend, including state reps and other state officials.

5.3 Solar on the Hadley Landfill- meeting with the Select Board

Michael Docter gave the update. He said that the two next steps, battery incentives and disposal costs for the whole thing had been requested and he is working on getting that information.

Jane Nevinsmith said the town is working with a consultant Jonathan Parrot and someone from Sunbug to figure out how to incorporate solar at other viable municipal sites.

6. New Topics

Marian will be notetaker for next month and Jack will chair

7. Items not anticipated at time of posting

To be added to the agenda for next month is Spring Cleaning Day. It will happen sometime around Earth Day.

8. Note taker for next meeting

Marian

9. Kathy Nelson adjourned the meeting at 8 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Marian Parker.

