

Climate Change Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: February 8th, 2024

Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: Hadley Senior Center

Members Present: Jack Czajkowski, Michael Docter, Catalina Arrubla, Cathy Niedziela

Members Absent: Kathy Nelson, Marian Parker, Kelly Minton

Also Present: Select Board Liaison- Jane Nevinsmith, Peter Matuszko, Susan Melchin, Wally Czajkowski, Claire Carlson, Steve Kelly, Jake, Alexandra Goldstein

1) Call to Order The Climate Change Committee convened an in-person meeting on February 8, 2024 at the Hadley Senior Center at 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA 01035, there and then to act on the following agenda.

2) Approved Minutes

Jack Czajkowski asked for a vote on the minutes of the January meeting. Michael Docter made a motion to accept the minutes. Catalina Arrubla seconded. The committee moved to vote and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3) Guest Speaker Sasha Adams Senior Lecturer in Environmental Health Sciences, UMass Amherst

Sasha Adams gave a presentation on plastic pollution highlighting the pervasiveness in the environment of several monomers used in the manufacture of plastics. She said breakdown products were found in human stool. Studies show potential harm to the human gut leading to "leaky gut" syndrome and toxicity to kidney cells. Long term handling of vinyl chloride leads to degradation of bone and liver cancer. Bisphenol-A (BPA) acts as a synthetic estrogen. Bioplastics are not shown to be safer.

Plastic pollution in the ocean acts as toxic pills to organisms. Lipophilic compounds and mercury are able to bond to the plastics. Toxins and mercury thus enter the food web.

Microfibers from synthetic clothing have been found to pose a risk.

Solutions - Eat local to minimize use of plastics in food distribution chain, use biodegradable plant based waxes, use stainless steel airtight containers, clothing of bamboo fleece - however it depends on how the bamboo is processed. There are no easy solutions as plastics are ubiquitous.

4.1) Specialized Stretch Code Discussion

After brief discussion centered on lack of clarity of policy and potential significant financial impact on homeowners looking to remodel their homes, committee voted to not move the Specialized Stretch code forward.

4.2) Speaker Series

No More Normal January meeting at Barstow's canceled due to low registration and may be rescheduled for late February.

Farm roundtable discussion on strategies for coping with climate change occurring tentatively on March 13th at 3:00pm Plainville Farm, Hadley.

4.3) Solar Conversation

Michael Docter is working on numbers regarding batteries for potential solar installation.

Jane Nevinsmith said Mass Municipal Association has grant money available for electric chargers for automobiles at Hadley Public Library.

A meeting needs to be scheduled with the MMA and details need to be discussed.

Up to four charging stations could be provided.

Climate Change Committee to meet with Select Board - TBD

5) Spring Cleanup

Date set for Saturday, April 20th with inclement weather date set for Saturday, April 27th.

Jack Czajkowski is going to contact Solid Waste Management, check with Tandem Bagel, Home Depot, Public Safety, and Dr. MacKenzie. Plan is to meet at Hopkins Academy.

Catalina Arrubla will look into Firestone for recycling of old tires, Gardener's Supply for recycling of plant containers, Staples for shredding and Target for children's car seats.

6) New Topics

Next meeting on March 14th

7) Items not anticipated at time of posting

8) Public Comment

Mr. Matuszko asked a question concerning the potential 4.5 million dollar cost of a solar field on landfill. Michael Docter responded that the incentives and savings would more than cover the cost.

9) Note taker for next meeting

Marian Parker

10) Jack Czajkowski adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jack Czajkowski and Cathy Niedziela.