
Facilitator: Chris Mason
Scribe: Douglas Renick

Public Comment Period:

- Lilly Lombard: Tree Commission submitted comments on the Plan. Urban forestry should be up front in Resiliency and Regeneration Plan (Plan). All city plans need timelines, metrics and goals. Need to prioritize funding for Plan actions. The Energy and Sustainability Commission (Commission) should submit feedback as a group and not just as individuals.
- Adele Franks: Affirmed Lilly’s remarks. I saw projects in the Plan with funding but know nothing about them. We need to be updated on these projects in a future meeting of the Commission.
- Sharon Moulton: I am the Climate Action Now representative on a state-wide coalition focused on carbon pricing. Ninety-three (93) representatives signed on. House and Senate leadership are not on board. Support of the Mass Municipal Association is being sought. There is an endorsement form. Can it be on the Commission agenda for next month? Commission could sign as a commission or as individuals.

Review/approve minutes of 7/11/18: The motion to approve the minutes was made by Bill Dwight. Alisa Klein seconded. Unanimous approval.

Revolving Fund Use--Replacement EV Chargers in Garage: Current chargers in garage are not adequate and will be moved to a different location. Charge point will allow us track charges. National Grid has incentive funding that come with guidelines. The ask is for approval of up to $10K for two chargers, one in the garage and another somewhere else. $10K will cover at least one charger. Are there DEP incentives of up to 80%? As of August, 2019 there are new DEP funds. Chris will look into this. Data plan is roughly $1K per port over 5 years. In placing the chargers be aware of problems with snow removal damaging cords. How could $10k be used? $180K set aside for LED lighting. LED upgrades will not be done this year. Use of $10K will leave $10K in fund. Fund will be recharged with SREC money. Concern was expressed about equity issues. This will be put on a future agenda. The motion to ask for approval of up to $10K for two EV chargers was made by Wayne Feiden. Bill Dwight seconded. Unanimous approval.

Voting Members:  Mary Biddle • William Dwight • Wayne Feiden • Louis Hasbrouck • Alisa Klein • Adin Maynard • Ashley Muspratt • Richard Parasiliti • David Pomerantz • Tim Smith • Ben Weil
Ex-officio, non voting:  Chris Mason
Revolving Fund Use--Feasibility and Prelim Design SDHW at HS:
A solar thermal array is being looked at as an alternative to a new gas domestic hot water (DHW) boiler at the high school. Solar hot water will be mostly available in the summer but would provide some heat all year. Ben Weil: wherever there is free solar heat you use it for DHW and/or for space heat. Central Services was stuck on how to determine cost feasibility. Needed an engineer that could look at both solar thermal system and conventional piped hot water sources. Found an engineer to do a design and compare cost to replacing current gas DHW boiler. $5000 cost for the study. Solar array can heat current water tanks in the school. For procurement purposes we have to know what we are asking for – how the SDHW ties into the school’s DHW system. Can the $5000 be seen as translatable to other municipal projects? If this lowers our use of gas infrastructure, we are meeting our goals. If we follow through on the project, we should say that we want a case study. Do we know how old boilers are in the city? Should we have the engineer look more broadly now? Could we save money there? There are free resources, e.g., at UMass. Smith has engineering resources. Say to Clean Energy Corps – you are dedicated to us in the spring to extend our study of energy infrastructure. Motion: to approve funding the preliminary design for solar hot water for the high school. Bill Dwight moved. Wayne Feiden seconded. Unanimous approval. Note: don’t lose the practical suggestion to investigate how to proceed more holistically. A High School student could do the case study. Work with the Environmental Club?

Community Choice Aggregation Authorization:
Wayne Feiden reported: There will be recommendations by the end of the year. Still many questions to answer. Basically, we want a CCA and are ready to go to the City Council. Council authorization should not be too specific. HCoG going away does not affect this though there is some history there. Question: will those with community solar be affected? People can opt out. CCA lets the communities aggregate consumers and then buy electricity. CCA competes with utilities. CCA’s are buying short term contracts. Long term contracts are riskier. Adele Franks was cited as the stimulus for the CCA initiative. Motion: to send this forward with a positive recommendation to the City Council for consideration. Bill Dwight moved. Wayne Feiden seconded. Unanimous approval.

CHG impacts of HVAC improvement projects:
The Mayor is committed to Northampton becoming a net zero city by 2050. Chris Mason has written a policy to provide direction to municipal departments in meeting this goal. Ben Weil worked with Chris on the policy. The end result is to put together plans for getting all municipal buildings off fossil fuel. Draft Mayoral Policy has been shared with the Commission. Feedback from the Commission: How many buildings does the city own? The Policy applies to every building, however, plans are required for larger buildings (that uses over 400 MMBTU of energy each year for space heat). Defining life cycle costs is required. The proposal moves the city along on the right path. Add a process to find a carbon price? Policy needs to push people to consider how they can contribute to becoming a net zero city by
2050. Policy needs teeth, but not be too rigid. The budget is a moral document. What has the best social outcome? Plans will go through the capital improvement process.

Climate Resiliency and Regeneration Plan:
Wayne provided a quick update: The Plan is about creating big frameworks. We have had 11 years with Sustainable Northampton. Creating a carbon budget for departments which ends at zero in 2050. The Plan is a lens for the capital improvement process. High impact practices. Across the board practices. The Pan present a total footprint so that decisions are not made in isolation. There are co-benefits across departments and activities. Equity for frontline communities. There is a lot that we don’t know. There is a need for education for the departments. Every decision has to be seen through the climate lens. We need actions for 2030. We need to be at net zero by 2050. Put this on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

Adjournment: The move to adjourn was made by Bill Dwight. Louis Hasbrouck seconded. Rich Parasiliti thirded. Unanimous approval.