

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE (CAC)  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE, TIME, PLACE:**

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 7:00 PM, via Videoconference

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:**

Regular Monthly Meeting

**ATTENDANCE:**

CAC MEMBERS PRESENT: Walt Vernon (Chair), Jody Timms, Bruce Ackerman (Council Member), Kiki La Porta, David Haskell, Joanne Lasnier (Secretary), Jen Hammond

CAC MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephanie Hellman (Council Member), Cassidy DeBaker (Vice-Chair), Chris Lang

GUESTS: Laura Vernon, Taj Motan, Susie Brillault Bergen, Richard Hamer

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- Meeting called to order 7:20 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

- See above.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

- Approved.

**4. OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION**

- Laura Vernon: Reminder of Sustainable Fairfax monthly community chats to engage community and promote sustainable actions. Next chats: Recycling and Waste Minimization in the Time of COVID, Thursday, August 27, 7 pm; How to Plan to Electrify Your Home, Thursday, September 3, 7 pm (first in 4-part series on electrifying your home)
- Jody Timms: Marin Sangha daylong workshop on climate change, this Saturday, 10-4

**5. APPROVAL OF JULY SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

- Approved.

**6. A3/SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES (Accomplishments, Challenges, Next Steps):**

a. Complete Fairfax Climate Action Plan (CAP) update: (Timms, Ackerman, Hammond, Lasnier, Community Members Laura Vernon)

i. Accomplishments: Eight strategy sections – drafts completed; public survey completed and taken by CAC, ready for approval and distribution to public

ii. Goals for next month: Write section intros, incorporate into one document, distribute to CAC for review. Send approved survey to engagement subcommittee for posting to community, review data from initial community survey results; next subcommittee meeting on Aug 28th

iii. Help needed: Input from CAC on the 8 strategies

b. Build Community Engagement and Support (Hammond, LaPorta, Timms)

i. Accomplishments:

1. Reached out to Mana Bowl, who was on the Deep Green business list, learned they are now on PG&E due to “costs”
2. CAC blog is building awareness – have two people interested in volunteering.
3. Requested town council climate retreat, Mayor Goddard on board

ii. Goals for next month:

1. Respond regularly to emails received
2. Get communication to town re: retreat
3. Work with Sustainable Fairfax to coordinate co-branding with CAC
4. Confirm with town how to distribute CAP survey
5. Considering tabling at Farmer’s Market, include info on MCE Deep Green
6. Request \$5K for carbon reduction grants

iii. Help needed: N/A

c. Carbon-Neutral Town Operations (Haskell, Ackerman, Lang)

i. Accomplishments: N/A

ii. Goals for next month: N/A

iii. Help needed: Challenges are COVID and bandwidth of people; consider disbanding temporarily, resume later

Note: Jody Timms noted project/committee names, etc., should be consistent on website, agendas, action plans, Joanne to start working on this

d. Double-Down MCE (Lasnier, Hellman, DeBaker, Community Member Laura Vernon)

i. Accomplishments: Met on 8/13. Noted those on MCE now will be Deep Green by 2022. Considering changing focus for this subcommittee, learned of Oakland org starting a solar coop, worth further research

ii. Goals for next month:

1. Walt to contact Oakland org re: a speaker for subcommittee meeting
2. Joanne Lasnier to contact MCE for current Fairfax subscribers

iii. Help needed: N/A

e. Implementing Ordinances (Vernon)

i. Accomplishments:

1. REACH code – council and town did not adopt, only using basic state codes but town agreed to research further

ii. Goals for next month:

- i. Continue to follow up with Garrett re: REACH
  - 1. iii. Help needed:
    - 1. Look into recruiting a volunteer lawyer to help with above project
- f. Build capacity and effectiveness (Vernon)
  - i. Accomplishments:
    - 1. Taj Motan, a SEA-DISC academy student at Drake HS, attended tonight's meeting, expressed interest in joining the CAC
    - 2. Walt talked with Drake HS SEA-DISC teachers Sue Fox and Michael Rawlins about possibility of CAC internship for a student. HS intern requirements may be too limited make it a good fit, but will pursue further. Bruce mentioned Fairfax Meter project as a possible internship opportunity.
    - 3. Established standing meetings for CAC subcommittees
    - 4. Currently Fairfax is not represented at MCEP meetings, Kara Spencer may be on furlough. Per Christine O'Rourke, MCEP rep does not have to be town staff
  - ii. Goals for next month:
    - 1. Continue to build relationship with SEA-DISC academy students
    - 2. Bruce to send Fairfax Meter project requirements to Walt for follow up
    - 3. Bruce to follow up re: representative to MCEP meetings
  - iii. Help needed: N/A

**7. MICROGRID PROJECT UPDATE (ACKERMAN, HASKELL, COMMUNITY MEMBERS COURTNEY RICHARDSON, JOHN SARTER)**

- 2. Bruce: Ackerman: Met today – Asiago inverter is from Canada, can connect to EV. Releasing first alpha units soon, but software protocol required by MCE is not yet available. Considering alternate design using inverter that connects with non-EV batteries/solar. Will pursue this to see if MCE can finance alternate. Possibly incorporate Asiago plan when it meets criteria.

**8. APPROVE CLIMATE ACTION SURVEY - TIMMS**

- 3. Survey approved. Next steps: Send to Garrett Toy, Bruce will follow up re: posting and including invite in town newsletter.

**9. PROPOSE RESOLUTION ENDORSING HR763, SUPPORTING A REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND PROGRAM – VERNON**

- Walt drafted resolution. Jody and David questioned relevance of HR763. Issue tabled for now; plan to discuss further in future meeting.

**10. DRAWDOWN MARIN PAPER - HASKELL**

- Drawdown Marin Strategic Plan published and open for public comment until 8/31. David noted it doesn't include what towns are doing and doesn't get specific about how goals will be met. Please read and send

comments directly to Drawdown. Bruce noted we must speak as individuals to comply with Brown Act rather than submitting comments on behalf of CAC.

#### **11. NEW BUSINESS**

- David recommends reading *The Deficit Myth* by Stephanie Kelton.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** by Joanne Lasnier, Secretary