

**Minutes of Meeting of
Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC)
Winter Environmental Conversation**

Date: February 3, 2019

Time: 2:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Place: Winchester Town Library

Present:	Members:	Guest(s):
	Sue Doubler	Mike Bettencourt
	Alan Field	Vince Dixon
	Kim Roeland	XXXX (woman with Vince?)
	Ruth Trimarchi	Ingrid Geis
	Frans Wethly	Steve Guberman
		Eliza Jansen
		John Kilborn
		Susan McPhee
		Fritzie Nace
		Carolyn Starrett
		George Wood
		Fred Yen
		Anyone else?

Ruth Trimarchi, Chair, presided and Frans Wethly kept the minutes of the meeting. A quorum being present, Ms. Trimarchi called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m., local time.

Ms. Trimarchi opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking each participant to introduce him or herself. Following introductions, Ms. Trimarchi explained the purpose of the meeting: to have a conversation about whether it is time to update Winchester’s 2011 Climate Action Plan (the “CAP”), what additional steps Winchester might take at this time to address the urgency of climate change, and CAAC’s role in fostering climate preparedness

Ms. Trimarchi then led a discussion of:

- The history of the CAP, its findings, its long list of recommendations and, aided by information compiled by Mr. Field, the many initiatives and accomplishments it has fostered.
- The urgency for continued action in light of the findings of the recent 4th National Climate Assessment and the recent report by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- The currently ongoing process to update Winchester’s Master Plan, which effort is being spearheaded by the Town Planner and presents an opportunity to more concretely

integrate climate mitigation and adaptation issues into the town's planning activities. The Town Planner has indicated that he is very interested in incorporating climate change issues into the New Master Plan and would like to see implementation strategies and plans for addressing those issues.

During a brief question and answer period, the group discussed, among other things, communication and cooperation between the CAAC and town officials ; the usefulness of estimating anticipated costs to municipal budgets of major climate events as a means of engendering community understanding of and support for addressing these issues; and the town's current sustainability statement.

The participants then participated in either of two breakout session groups, one on Transportation/Energy and the other on Water/Waste, to evaluate progress to date on CAP initiatives regarding those issues and to consider potential updates to the CAP. Following the breakout sessions, a representative of each group provided a summary of topics covered by that group in the breakout session.

For the Transportation/Energy group, Mr. Field reported that the group discussed topics including the need for multi-state efforts; the need to focus on personal mobility as well as vehicles; the need for transportation plan; that redevelopment plans should take transportation issues into account; that other towns may offer models for efficient transportation; trash collection vs. transfer station; school buses; electric buses; collaboration with neighboring towns; airplane travel/offsets; adding emissions as an emphasis of the town's transportation group (current focus is mostly safety); the problem of vehicle idling; and the need to look to state policy.

For the Water/Waste group, Ms. Roeland reported that the group discussed topics including recycling issues (such as contamination, uncertain markets); the current status of the town's transfer station contract and the opportunity to think about a waste plan; the difficulty of monitoring what goes in recycling; single-stream issues, perhaps a move back to sorting recyclables; educational opportunities in schools; the issue of water bottles, including the possibility of banning use of tax dollars on them; flooding and storm-water issues; and the potential for a CAAC member to have a role on the town's Educational Facilities Planning & Building Committee.

Following the reports on the breakout sessions, Ms. Trimarchi invited each participant to make a closing remark, after which she thanked all the participants for their thoughtfulness and contributions in this meeting and closed the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m. local time.

Respectfully submitted,

Frans Wethly, Secretary pro tem

Here are my notes from closing comments. We can include them if you'd like, though my notes are not complete

JK – would like to see an update in light of developments; but don't bother with a new inventory

SG – would be curious to see an estimate of emissions associated with current transportation plan and having curbside pick-up.

VD –

SD – like to see us expand our networking and working with other communities on transportation matters; set an actual goal

FY – transportation is a regional issue and would like to propose it to sustainable Middlesex

FN – collaboration;

EJ – great to eliminate water bottles from government ops

Woody – 1. Plan should be revised, to use as a tool. 2. Town needs a committee on its own for waste. 3. More regulations on the books (SB, TM, Bylaws) to mandate things. 4. Enforcement of rules. 5. Grant support.

MB – thanks, need to focus on education. WL Farm would be a good partner in this conversation.

AF – helpful to prioritize the big issues

IG – good window to address recycling with trash contract coming up. Big things are transportation, heating; think more creatively about having a climate person present in meetings in around town

KR – resiliency and adaptation actions

CS – use, embrace all the great outdoor space we have

SM – encourage CAAC to go big, something like 80% by 2040. Focus on one big issue.