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**Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC)**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 11th, 2020**  
*(approved 4-22-20)*

**Attending:** Laura Draucker (Chair), Andra Rose (Vice-chair), Darcy Dumont, Evan Ross, Steve Roof, Ashwin Ravikumar, Dwayne Breger, Jesse Selman, Sarah Durr, Steve Roof, Ashwin Ravikumar

**Staff:** Stephanie Ciccarello, Sustainability Coordinator

**Absent:** None

**Public:** Martha Hanner LWVA SCAC member, Richard Kolfer LWVA SCAC committee member, Rosemary Kolfer

**Meeting called to order 4:32 PM**

**Review of meeting minutes**

- **MOTION:** Rose moved to accept the minutes, Selman seconded
- **APPROVED:** 7-0-1 (Durr abstaining)

**Public**

- Martha stated an Issue of concern regarding the power plant in Springfield. Her concern is that the biomass renewable portfolio standard would get state subsidies. She thinks it should be a concern to the ECAC committee. Richard Kolfer shared the same concern.
- Rosemary Kolfer stated she is observing meetings.

**Welcome new committee member, Sarah Durr**

- Everyone introduced themselves.
- Durr works in the architecture/infrastructure industry and has passion for sustainability and environmental justice.

**Staff updates**

- Opening proposals in response to the RFP for a consultant to assist with development of a Climate Action, Adaptation and Resilience Plan on Monday. There is a formatted procurement process on how the town responds and conducts interviews.
- There is a staff meeting tomorrow about coronavirus. The Sustainability Festival may be postponed to a later date or canceled.
- Stephanie requests members coordinate with her in regards to getting on other committees' meeting agenda.
- Potential of remote meetings in the future due to the coronavirus.

**Discussion on the Role of Town Councilors on the Committee**

- Ross thanked the committee for the work it has done and is stepping down as a member. He noted the ECAC is the only committee that has councilors on it. The committee

discussed the effect of having councilors as members. The goal of the conversation was to give input on what the role of councilors has been and should (or should not) continue to be on the committee. Members acknowledged numerous benefits including being more connected to the town. The group also discussed concerns that future members may be inhibited to voice their opinions which may impact the free flow of conversation. Draucker will send language around about the conversation next week to the Council President.

### **Finalize Consultant Questions**

- The committee suggested adding questions such as; 1) can they do remote meetings and community outreach somehow; 2) asking how they incorporate environmental justice and 3) asking about how they do analytical methods and what specific ones they use.

### **Climate Action Planning**

- Discussion was held on the ECAC's involvement with other committees. Selman went to the Agriculture commission meeting and they had a lot of input for ECAC. He said that when he attended the meeting what worked well was to introduce ECAC in a brief manner and spend more time listening to feedback. He took notes and will share them with the committee. They work on issues that overlap with ECAC such as food justice and community outreach. The committee discussed that interacting with other committees is a good way to connect with other people in the community, and that ECAC can learn from other committees. Also, ECAC can partner with other committees to work on the same project.
- Selman will write a follow up thank you to the Agriculture Commission and keep the connection going. Dumont will go to a Transportation committee meeting. Breger will go to a Joint Capital Planning Cte meeting. Ravikumar will go to a Finance Committee meeting. Draucker will go to a Planning and Zoning committee meeting. Rose will go to an Amherst School Committee meeting. Roof will go to a Conservation Committee meeting.
- Draucker compiled notes regarding the climate action plan.

### **Unforeseen items**

- None

### **Next meeting agenda**

- Updates on committee members who have talked to groups.
- Identify other committees to connect with

### **Public comment**

- None

**Meeting adjourned: 6:32 PM**