

Climate Action Planning Committee

June 29, 2023

Members Present: Maggie Oldfield, Ron Israel, Mary Stefanidakis, Alex Hasha, Tracy Dyke-Redmond, Arthur Doyle, John Godleski, Josh Eckart-Lee (Staff), Jack Turner (Staff)

Meeting called to order at 7:01.

Introduction of committee members and staff

New members introduced themselves to one another and shared their backgrounds related to climate planning. Alex Hasha is a designee from Sustainable Milton and is a board member of the same. Tracy Dyke-Redmond is also a board member of Sustainable Milton and was appointed by the Select Board. Mary Stefanidakis works for Constellation Energy, a large carbon-free energy company. Maggie Oldfield is the designee of the Planning Board on the committee. Arthur Doyle, former Select Board chair, is the designee of the Conservation Commission. Ron Israel has a background in international development and manages a nonprofit that runs [climatescorecard.org](https://www.climatescorecard.org). John Godleski is a professor emeritus of Harvard Medical School as an expert on environmental health. Town staff – Jack Turner & Josh Eckart-Lee – introduced themselves and their roles in Town Hall.

Commented [GU1]: Small correction: Tracy was appointed by the Select Board; Alex was the only Designee from Sustainable Milton

Presentation of Milton's current climate initiatives by Josh Eckart-Lee, Assistant Town Planner, and Jack Turner, Environmental Coordinator

Staff introduced the projects that are actively being worked on by town departments which are relevant to the goals of the committee. These included a Greenhouse Gas Inventory, a Microgrid Feasibility Study, adopting the Specialized Opt-In Stretch Code, Milton's Community Electricity Aggregation, the town's SolSmart Designation, Waste Management & Composting, 360 Trees Planting Initiative, Stormwater Best Management Practices, and Zoning Updates. Member Godleski discussed the recent wildfires in Canada and the effects on our local air quality in Milton, and the importance of addressing wildfires. Member Doyle noted that the Blue Hills Reservation takes up 21% of the area of town, and there would be very significant impacts on our watershed and water quality. Member Israel noted that goals of 2050 for carbon neutrality can be misleading and we should strive for a more accountable goals.

Discussion of committee expectations, norms, and administration

Member Hasha discussed the need to have a clear set of expectations and structure for how meetings will be organized and administered. Members discussed setting a timetable for action and for reporting to the Select Board. Member Dyke-Redmond noted that a clear expectation for the next year of work is essential. Member Hasha talked about how meeting a quorum can be challenging for committees of this scale and discussed establishing subcommittees to move forward in a timelier manner. Member Hasha has been reviewing peer communities' Climate Action Plans and identifying common themes and relevant items that would be beneficial for Milton's efforts. The inventory of that work is available in the committee's shared folder. That work also resulted in a broad framework for a climate action plan based

on those common themes. Member Dyke-Redmond noted that plans can vary in their detail: some can be very high-level and general, or have much more detail, which is often aided using consultants. She continued that the key challenge is often plan implementation rather than plan creation. Member Godleski discussed the importance of bringing in the latest science and research to our planning process. He also discussed Suberine, which is a plant root product that absorbs carbon, and which can be increased through genetic modification to increase carbon sequestration. Member Dyke-Redmond promoted the use of a “yes and” approach to the expertise of committee members. Member Oldfield also promoted the use of a checklist for the committee to stay on track.

Members agreed to having a regular meeting at 6:00 PM on the third Thursdays of the month, in a hybrid format. Meeting materials will be shared by the Friday prior to the meeting.

Discussion of committee work plan and timeline

Member Dyke-Redmond, as part of her role on the Sustainable Milton, prepared a draft workplan for consideration. This will be reviewed by the committee as a starting point for workplan development. Members will also review Sustainable Milton’s regional CAP tracking matrix and come back with their feedback at their next meeting. Member Hasha noted that the “worst” plans that are made are the ones that are not being implemented or having their communities be meaningfully engaged. Removing obstacles for residents who wish to act sustainably is a part of this committee’s charge and was highlighted by Member Hasha. Member Godleski also recommended that the committee engage in an initial review of the rules and bylaws of the Town for reporting in the next meeting. Member Israel noted that a unified framework and understanding of reductions goals will make a meaningful review of existing rules changes more possible.

Vote on committee officers

Member Doyle discussed that the essential elements of a committee chair are a passion for this work and a commitment to spending the additional time needed for facilitation. Staff also discussed the mechanics of agenda setting, how to operate subcommittees, and the role of meeting facilitation. Members discussed a co-chair model, based on the Equity and Justice for All Committee, and sought to pursue that. Member Hasha expressed an interest in the role of Secretary. Member Dyke-Redmond volunteered to be a co-chair. Arthur Doyle motioned to nominate Alex Hasha & Tracy Dyke-Redmond as co-chairs of the committee seconded by John Godleski. All present in favor. A vote on a secretary was postponed until the full committee was established.

Scheduling of next meeting dates

The next meetings will be July 20th, August 17th & September 21st at 6:00PM. The co-chairs will work with staff to establish the agenda. Motion by Arthur Doyle, seconded by Ron Israel. All present in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Josh Eckart-Lee, Assistant Town Planner