

Town of Milton
Climate Action Planning (CAP) Committee
July 20th, 2023

Meeting Date: 6/23/2023

Members in Attendance: Tracy Dyke-Redmond, co-Chair; Alex Hasha, co-Chair and Secretary; Lisa Troy; Maggie Oldfield; Arthur Doyle; John Godleski; Jack Turner, Environmental Coordinator;

Members attending remotely: Josh Eckhart-Lee, Assistant Town Planner, Ron Israel (phone)

Members Absent: Mary Stefanidakis

Meeting Location: Town Hall, 2nd Floor, Cronin Conference Room

Time Meeting called to Order: 6:12PM

Time Meeting Adjourned: 7:25PM

Co-chair Tracy Dyke-Redmond called the meeting to order at 6:12PM.

1. Welcome/Introduce new members

Tracy Dyke-Redmond summarized the agenda for the meeting and asked for any additional topics that may have been missed. A short recap of committee communication and agenda posting logistics followed.

Lisa Troy is representing the School Committee on the CAP Committee. She has 18 years of experience in education teaching climate change, but left education two years ago to join a renewable energy company that aggregates Renewable Energy Credits.

Committee members unanimously agreed to address each other informally by first names.

2. Vote on committee Co-chair and Secretary

Tracy Dyke-Redmond reviewed that she and Alex Hasha had been appointed co-chairs at the prior meeting, but that there is still a need to appoint a Secretary. In the absence of volunteers to take on that role, Alex Hasha is willing to be both co-chair and secretary.

Arthur Doyle moved to appoint Alex Hasha as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Lisa Troy. All members voted in favor.

3. Discussion/Vote on approval of meeting minutes

Tracy Dyke-Redmond asked whether any members would offer corrections to the minutes for the meeting on 6/29/2023. None being offered, *Alex Hasha moved to approve the minutes. Lisa Troy seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.*

Alex Hasha shared a proposed process for drafting and approving minutes with the goal of making an accurate record of the committee's activities available to the public without needing to wait a full month for the minutes to be approved at the next meeting. The proposed process was

- 1) The secretary produces draft minutes within 5 business days of the meeting.
- 2) The co-chairs review the minutes and make edits, then circulate the draft minutes to members and staff for their corrections and feedback.
- 3) Committee members will have 5 business days to review and respond with corrections or objections.
- 4) In the absence of objections, the co-chairs will approve the minutes.
- 5) If there are objections, the discussion, revision and approval of the minutes will be added to the agenda of the following meeting.

Maggie Oldfield raised the concern that there is value to the public of having changes discussed publicly. Arthur Doyle suggested that draft meeting minutes could be posted publicly after a review period, with formal approval still occurring at the next public meeting of the committee. There was general agreement to go with this approach, and because this approval process aligns with the norm of most other committees, the members agreed that no motion was necessary to adopt this approach.

Maggie Oldfield also noted a risk that in the course of collaboratively editing a minutes document, it would be possible to engage in deliberations in violation of the open meeting law. Josh Eckhart-Lee stated this is not a problem in practice as long as members refrain from responding to each other's revisions and other discussion.

4. Review of Town GHG Inventory from Town Staff

Milton has received the first draft of the updated GHG inventory numbers. They have not been through the consultant's technical review process yet, and will be shared once that validation is complete.

A 1.2% increase in emissions from 2017 to 2022. Just under 279,000 MMT to 282,000 MMT. In 2017, 46% of emissions were generated by stationary sources (buildings primarily). Minor emissions from waste and construction. About 53% were generated by transportation. In 2022, 46.4% from buildings and 51.8% from transportations.

In the second phase of our project with Apex, our GHG consultants, they will be bringing in communication specialists to help the town develop engagement materials such as logos, outreach language, iconography and color schemes. Town staff would love to get the committee's initial thoughts on what would be appropriate as well as continued feedback.

John Godleski asked if the inventory analyzed the relationship between the amount of new construction in the town and changes in emissions. Josh Eckhart-Lee said that the increase in

gross commercial and residential square footage in Milton has been calculated, but it is not currently represented in the GHG inventory.

Maggie Oldfield asked if any data is available to indicate whether trees or open space in town have been removed. Josh Eckhart-Lee said that the town currently does not have access to a data source that tracks this.

Arthur Doyle recommended we invite Branch Lane and Laura Beebe to report on metrics for shade tree cover. Jack Turner said they have no methods for tracking general tree canopy changes.

Alex Hasha asked whether residential electricity consumption is included in the “stationary sources” bucket, and Josh Eckhart-Lee confirmed that it is and that Scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions are all included as well as a breakout of consumption from municipal sources.

Arthur Doyle asked whether there has been any attempt to forecast emissions based on known new development in the pipeline. Josh Eckhart-Lee said that high-level forecasts have been done based on population data and historical development rates, but not based on the specific projects in the pipeline.

Maggie Oldfield asked if it’s possible to understand from the analysis what percentage of Transportation emissions are from vehicles passing through Milton not owned by Milton residents. Josh Eckhart-Lee explained that the analysis is based on data from MassDOT that does differentiate cut-through traffic, but he is not sure if the GHG inventory includes this breakdown.

5. Discussion and Review of Charge for the CAP Committee and relation to state goal.

Tracy Dyke-Redmond led the committee through a short presentation reviewing the committee’s charge and how it relates to the state’s climate goals. A copy of this presentation is available in the committee’s sharepoint folder.

Maggie Oldfield noted a need for planning for adaptation and preservation, though that was not explicitly mentioned in the charge. Arthur Doyle suggested that the Climate Action Plan should have provisions for reformulating the plan and the committee charge from time to time, given the long-term nature of the committee’s work.

6. Discussion/Review of Climate Action Plans (CAPs) developed by other towns and their relevance for Milton

Maggie Oldfield expressed a desire to focus on preservation of natural lands and “nature-based solutions”, and that initiatives are needed to slow forest loss. This could include both placing additional land in conservation status, but also adjusting zoning and bylaws to encourage

preservation of privately owned land. She mentioned the Wellesley tree bylaw as an example, which regulates removal of large trees.

Lisa Troy shared her reactions to the Hingham CAP, feeling that many action items focused on “encouragement” and “education”, and that she hopes our plan can be focused more on tangible outcomes. Would like our CAP to look both at what we can do to reduce emissions, but also gather data to understand how climate change has already impacted Milton and is expected to impact it in the future. Alex Hasha mentioned riskfactors.com as an interesting new data source of this kind.

John Godleski noted that it’s important to consider particulate emissions from car tires, and not just tailpipe emissions, noting that most particulate emissions from cars come from tires. We should look at whether we are using the best road materials to address this issue, which also applies to electric vehicles. Several members asked for clarification of whether these tire emissions drive climate change in addition to having human health impacts. John Godleski suggested that toxic chemicals are catalyzed by tire emissions.

Arthur Doyle suggested that the plan include strategies for funding its recommended activities, and suggested we explore opportunities for funding from private foundations.

Alex Hasha observed that there are a large number of specific action items in other town’s CAPs that we can consider for inclusion in Milton’s CAP. A concern he has is that they focus heavily on actions for emissions mitigation and not enough on adaptation, resilience, and execution strategy. The sheer volume of actions needed by working backward from the goals appears to outstrip operational capacity. Also, he encouraged thought on how the CAP should address the fact that many of the state’s climate goals require changes in resident’s private behavior and property that the town does not directly control.

7. Discussion of scope and priorities for Milton’s CAP

Maggie Oldfield suggested starting with a focus on town buildings because it would be hard to inspire residents to change behaviors without setting an example.

Alex Hasha commented that the state goals cannot be achieved without changes in private behavior that the town doesn’t control. The plan should focus on facilitating those behavior changes, avoid creating unnecessary obstacles, and helping residents access state and federal incentives and assistance wherever they are eligible for them. Sustainable Milton has information of this nature on its website today.

Josh Eckhart-Lee mentioned that the town is developing a dedicated resilience and sustainability page for the town website. Currently the content is split across different department pages.

Alex Hasha said that outreach strategy needs to be part of the plan, because simply getting the information onto a website doesn't ensure that the people who need it will find it. The committee may need to secure assistance from people with expertise in public communication.

Lisa Troy mentioned that Mass Save is a great program offering many resources to residents.

Alex Hasha mentioned that Sustainable Milton has compiled research on Climate-friendly actions and resources that are available to Milton residents, which is available on the web at <https://community.massenergize.org/sustainablemilton/actions>

8. Discussion of a process for developing a CAP

Alex Hasha presented a process proposal for working toward a CAP starting with top-down outlining, ideating potential action items, a first-pass prioritization to guide deeper research and community engagement, and a final prioritization before drafting the plan.

Arthur Doyle recommended identifying plan elements with budget implications so that any necessary budget requests can be raised in a timely manner. He also recommended developing a succinct definition of the plan priorities, and a timeline for those priorities.

John Godleski encouraged identifying private and public sources of funding to support actions in the plan, and including those funding sources in the plan. Alex Hasha mentioned that many towns have created a climate action coordinator role and bringing in grants is an important part of that role. Arthur Doyle suggested exploring whether such a role might be created in partnership with surrounding towns, or at the county level. Maggie Oldfield mentioned that land preservation actions could seek funding from the Community Preservation committee.

Tracy Dyke-Redmond requested that we reflect on the proposed process and come ready to define a work plan in the next meeting.

9. Public Comments

No hands raised.

The committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm.

List of documents and exhibits reviewed

- [Relating State 2030 and 2050 Goals to the Milton CAP.pptx](#)
- [An inventory of state plan and town CAP documents is available in the committee sharepoint folder.](#)
- [Proposed Process for Developing a Climate Action Plan for Milton \(Alex Hasha\).docx](#)