

Minutes from Virtual Meeting of the Net Zero Planning Subcommittee  
of the Green Energy Committee  
4 pm, April 30, 2021

Attendees: Sue Klem, Lynne Smith, Audrey Kalmus, Emily Haslett, Staci Montori, Roy Harvey

Interview with Bob Zogg, co-author of the Carlisle Sustainability Plan, 2019

Several GEC members met with Bob Zogg to discuss the Carlisle plan. While the Carlisle plan is comprehensive and professional, it was developed without community consensus. The plan focused on emissions and was diagnostic, not 'prescriptive'. That is, it did not make a lot of recommendations for what the town could do to reduce emissions.

We asked several questions and Bob provided these answers.

Questions:

1. **Buy-in:** *Did you get Carlisle residents on board with the plan? If so, how did you go about doing that?*  
We started to work on that, but were interrupted by the pandemic. We had three community events and met with the Planning Board and School Committee. We also promoted the report through letters to the editor and the town website. We also posted the draft report for community review (3 months).
2. **Outside expertise:** *Did you have outside consultants with professional expertise in developing community plans? Or were you yourself the expertise?*  
We didn't hire anyone, but we talked to and sought review from several experts both within and outside our community. See Acknowledgments section.
3. **Funding:** *Did you get MAPC or any other funds to develop the plan? If so, how did you go about doing that?*  
We had no funding (beyond maybe \$100 for supplies and refreshments for events).
4. **Next Steps:** *Where is the town now in executing the plan?*  
It's been slow. Our strategy was to pursue this as part of Carlisle's master plan process. That plan has been delayed by at least 1 year. The CETF is now considering what elements to pursue outside the MP process. The new CETF also want to review/revise the conceptual approach and hiring needs.

5. ***Do over?:*** *If you were to do it again, what would you do differently?*
- MAPC has a much better set of tools than they did in 2017. I might consider using those tools, or elements of those tools.
  - I might set up the analysis process in a way that's easier to update periodically.
  - Perhaps develop an approach to get more community engagement throughout the process, although that's easier said than done.
  - Perhaps put more emphasis on the path forward, and less on the carbon inventory.
  - Figure out how to reach community—what are the key communication channels that you can use? What additional communication techniques can you use to accommodate those with little time as well as those with more time?
  - Refine emissions factors for electricity and NG
  - Perhaps be more up front about the real emissions impacts of purchasing RECs
  - Clarify terminology—"Direct Emissions" may not be best term.

Respectfully submitted, Lynne Smith, Net Zero Planning subcommittee member