

**Minutes for Climate Action Planning Committee Meeting on
September 29th, 2021 8AM**

Pursuant to Gov. Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, as further extended on June 15, 2021 by the Governor's signing of Senate Bill #2475, this meeting of the Climate Action Planning Subcommittee is being conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible

Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by member of the public and/or parties with a right and or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Town of Lincoln website, at www.lincolntown.org.

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

Also Present: Select Board liaison, Jennifer Glass; Michele Grzenda, Director of Conservation

Michele Grzenda joined us to describe the many Climate Resiliency plans the Conservation Commission has contributed to over the last few years. We will meet with the ConCom tonight and she wanted to give us background as her Committee is very busy looking at permitting issues. Prior to the meeting, she sent a number of links to these plans as referred to below.

- MAGIC (2021): Many town organizations are supplemented by volunteer groups. MG wants to do a better job communicating efforts to these groups. J Curtin prepared "Lincoln's Climate Resiliency & Green Initiatives" in March 2021. It included things such as the Net Zero School, Codman Farm solar panels, EV charging station.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan: This is a 5-year FEMA-approved plan that will be good until 2023. It includes stresses on vulnerable populations, flooding, etc.
- MAGIC Climate Change Resiliency Plan (2017): The plan actually opens doors to state grants and other moneys.
- MVP Plan (2018): This is Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan came from money Baker gave to towns to participate. It was developed by staff in 2 hour facilitated sessions. It focused on roads and buildings and stressors that need mitigation. It laid out some goals.
- SuAsCo Watershed Plan (2020): Grants led to this plan. Stow and OARS were the champion and MG wrote a letter of support. It included a questionnaire looking for stakeholders. Grant is for May 2021-May 2022. This will accelerate resiliency and will work with staff focusing on sustainability and climate change. Outreach, small group meetings, and webinars are planned to share goals and resources, funding opportunities and participate in MAGIC's resiliency plan.

They will meet with MAGIC in October. Possible action: CAP representative could attend meeting.

- MS4: Storm water plan required by EPA includes education of community on issues such as reducing phosphorus in ground water, dog waste, leaf litter, agriculture. It also has to do with operating and maintenance of town buildings.

MG emphasized that the Wetlands Protection Act set laws that the ConCom volunteer committee members enforce by meeting with petitioners who want to get permission for activities near wetlands. Climate change planning is done at the staff level so that committee meetings can be devoted to petitioners. This year, MG has asked for funding for electric tools for land maintenance.

Klem: Commented on the overlap with our committee: We are focused a bit more on prevention of climate change while ConCom is focused on mitigating its effects.

Kalmus: At our meeting tonight, we should let the ConCom members know what we are doing and start the conversation. No 'Deep Dive' into the planning process,

MG: 40% of Lincoln's land is protected so that's a lot of land for ConCom to manage and enforce the '100' from wetlands' law. Sometimes they have to balance wetlands protection with "green" initiatives, e.g., trees near a house need to be cut so solar panels can be added—but if a wetlands is close by, trees need to stay; geothermal projects might interfere with wetlands. These are conundrums to be figured out. The good news is that carbon sequestration is HUGE thanks to Lincoln's conserved land and trees.

Glass suggested we ask: If ConCom could spend time thinking about more than administering the wetlands act, what are the climate questions they would ask? The ConCom is at the center of town-wide decisions when tradeoffs must be considered between wetlands protection, conservation, and the built environment.

Glass and MG: Discussed Sustainability and capacity planning. A Sustainability Coordinator (SC) is a municipal job. They would look for grants, look at energy consumption, retrofit old buildings—a big job in old towns. MG doesn't have the 'capacity' to do carbon footprint reduction. In Weston, FinCom asked for a chart to show how a Sustainability Coord. hire could pay for itself.

MG: An SC could be the go-to person to resolve wetlands vs. sustainability questions. All big Town decisions (in Lincoln and SuAsCo) involve ConCom permitting.

Harvey asked: Out of all the MAGIC/SuAsCo towns/projects, what are the Top 3 things that matter?

MG: (1) Capital planning: Electric equipment replacing gas powered
(2) Work with farmers to build sustainable practices, how heat is affecting agriculture
(3) Stormwater as floods become more prevalent

In general, Lincoln really benefits from our land conservation practices.

Haslett: Healthy soil contributes to sustainable practices.

MG left the meeting.

Klem moved we vote to approve the minutes of the September 15 meeting. Approval was unanimous.

Klem asked for note takers for the following meetings:

- Tonight, Sept. 29: Smith
- Oct. 4th, Select Board: Staci Montori
- Oct 5, Ag Commission: Staci Montori
- Oct 12, Planning: Staci Montori

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing how best to present to ConCom tonight, which other boards we should meet with prior to SoTT, and how best to set up a vote at 2022 TM.

Klem: CAP and ConCom role with Climate Resiliency

Glass: Documents are key to unlocking grant funding

Klem: Climate plans come in through MVP grants

Harvey: Land is a sink for sequestration, part of carbon offset. But do wetlands generate methane?

Discussion: Meet with School Committee before SoTT.

Glass: At SoTT, have poll questions that show need for SC or consultant, then go to FinCom after that but before December budgeting.

Smith, Kalmus: We need to begin drafting the SoTT presentation now, even before the other meetings are conducted as that might help us refine our goals in the meetings. What is the ask for FinCom? Do we need to talk to Tim Higgins about FTE, etc.?

Vote to adjourn by roll call at 9:31AM by Sue Klem, Staci Montori seconded, Klem, aye; Harvey, aye; Haslett, aye; Kalmus, aye; Montori, aye. Meeting adjourned.

Klem will ask for availability for next meeting times via email.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynne Smith