

Present

Leigh Hafrey, Chuck Kabat, Andy Belden, Emily Walton, Deb Harrison, Michael De Winter, Elissa Brown
Frances (did not get last name), a Dedham community member

AGENDA:

1. Public Comment
2. CRWA Climate Resiliency Resources (Guest: Dira Johanif)
3. Tesla EV Charging Station Discussion (Guest: Ed Noseworthy)
4. Climate Action Plan Task Prioritization
5. Oakdale School Sustainability Goals and Recap of ECEC Solar Discussions
6. Recycle Day
7. Update on Committee Membership Positions
8. Chair/Vice Chair/Clerk Determination

7:03 Mtg called to order motion Emily, 2nd Andy, All in favor

1-Public comment—none

2-CRWA Climate Resiliency Resources

Dira Johanif: Urban resiliency advocate CRWA
Robert Kearns: Climate resilience specialist CRWA

Goal: discuss idea and recommendations re Dedham building its resiliency
Can CRWA partner and build resilience?

Overview of CRWA mission/history

Climate change impacts and importance in watershed, flooding likelihood and impacts—good opportunity to do some planning

Stormwater runoff overview and phosphorus pollution

How much impervious cover—we are about in the middle, and are fairly high in vulnerability index

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness: More intense storms, heat, droughts, This is on town www site

Climate Compact-Dedham is part of it—climate compact and flood model-Jeremy Rosenberger attends-discusses ways to adapt to climate change
CRWA Showed map of flood areas in Dedham
Culverts and streams are being analyzed

Including: middle school area, which is also a shelter

NEPRA is working on one for Neponset watershed-some of Dedham is in Neponset watershed

Recommendations to build resilience:

- Adopt stormwater utility
- Strengthen tree protection
- Strengthen wetlands bylaw

CRWA has looked at Dedham's Climate action and resiliency plan

Actions for Dedham:

- Prepare all residents and businesses
- Green infrastructure
- Make sure utilities are prepared
- Increase tree canopy to 65%

Climate Resilience Toolkit: Revenue
stormwater utility—dedicated revenue source for staff, education, and green stormwater
Funds fixing drainage and complying with MS4

#1
Stormwater utility: related to pavement owned—a fee charged based on pavement (public, private)
Cost? “Not a lot”
If implemented, are there are mitigation steps?
Lots of education done in the 24 communities that have a stormwater utility?

#2
Tree cover canopy
Create town wide tree protection policy (in our CAP)
Protect private trees/trees on private property
Climate resilience objectives and language through a tree bylaw

#3
Wetlands
There are more than 1,200 acres of wetlands in Dedham
Dedham unique has a large amount of the natural valley storage area (Cutler Park) for water storage
*include climate change to protect wetlands—isolated wetlands as well as intermittent streams
Use up to date climate change data and maps

Environmental justice:
Re how to mitigate and how to plan: we have 7 EJ block groups, communities most vulnerable (state has map)
EJ and equity goals: increase access to water

CPA: community preservation act is a climate resilience toolkit (funding thru property tax)-open space, improving recreation, affordable housing, historic preservation

Dams:
Slows water, lowers DO above dams, water temp increases above dam
Discussion of fish and dams-if dams removed below Dedham, would more fish species be here?
Answer: yes, historical records of shad and alewife farther up river, even salmon

Presentation being shared, also webinar link for DNS can be shared

Question:
Re strengthening trees and wetlands-this incorporating our climate action plan
If committee says yes, then what? What happens next? Present to selectboard? To educate them?

#3 Re Tesla EV Charging Station Discussion

Tesla went before selectboard
Informal discussion, wants to expand-near WAVES carwash
Town mgr and planning director are in favor
Right now zoning bylaw does not allow-just need to add a word to say private as well as municipal facilities
Currently it is not an allowable use based on the language
What about other EV charging than Tesla?
Have this done for next spring town meeting-was not enough time
Can we be in favor and not support?
Q: a reason town staff are not proposing this?

Process? Letter to selectboard? Just change one word that will allow other charging station types?

#4-Climate Action Plan Task Prioritization

With so many goals and details-where do we start?

Was the climate action plan rolled out as pandemic hit and Environmental Dept was removed?

We also have other goals in addition to the Climate Action Plan goals

CAP completed in 2020

Do we bring back a discussion of broader definition of our committee mission? Our statement of purpose?

Climate action plan-was it rolled out to depts and committees?

Do we need to present it to the selectboard and committees/depts bc timing issues (Env Dept, COVID)

Is this climate action plan "IT" to be addressed? The plan exists already-work with what we have developed and use it

Goal for Nov meeting: we come to meeting with good understanding of CAP, and some prioritization of how to move forward

OR

Pick a goal in the CAP and move forward with it

Also mention of Oakdale-can we get involved earlier than we got involved with ECEC?

One goal of CAP: green bldg standards for retrofit and new bldgs

Commitment: really go through CAP for Nov mtg to have the discussion to proactively plan for Nov discussion

Get reminder about reading CAP

#5—Oakdale School Sustainability Goals and Recap of ECEC Solar Discussions

Read latest Dedham Times article

ECEC solar meeting recap:

- Andy report on the presentation/discussion
- SOLEC presentation (too much detail)
- Not a warm reception from the school committee
- Q/A re rates/bills, lots of details
- Not ready for fall town warrant

Re Oakdale project-Connect with School Bldg Rehab Committee?

Think about requirements for solar in the state

#6—Recycle Day

Discussion of this past Saturday's recycling event at Middle School

#7-Update on Committee Membership Positions

Elissa will check with Nancy Baker on this re# and if selectboard and high school student is on

#8-Chair/Vice Chair/Clerk Determination

No determination, we prefer to rotate responsibility each month

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, All in favor Adjourned 8:23