

San Anselmo Climate Action Commission

Monday, May 23, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

Via web meeting

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Members present: Kathleen Gundry, Sue Saunders, Karen Mendelow, Hayley Ballard, Michael Kamerick, Alice Simenstad, Judith O'Rourke

Others present: Sean Youra (Climate Action Coordinator); Jody Timms, Alexis Fineman (Mayor), Lucie Martikan, Ingrid Wahlstrom

II. Open Time for Public Expression

Michael Kamerick reported that CPUC is trying again to tax rooftop solar in a different way and asked whether the Commission could make a statement as CPUC is asking for feedback on their proposal. The CAC doesn't have authority to make a statement, but can pass a resolution, requesting that the Town Council comment on the proposal. Generally, CAC would oppose anything that would make rooftop solar unaffordable, or greatly increase the payback period on solar investment. Sue volunteered to write the resolution so we can vote on it next time. There is a CPUC meeting on 6/2/22. Individual members can make comments by that date, or attend a protest.

Action item: Sue to write a resolution on the new CPUC rooftop solar proposal.

III. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes from April were distributed and reviewed. They were approved unanimously by those who attended that meeting.

IV. Presentation

V. New Business Discussion/Action

1. New faces. Judith O'Rourke has joined the Commission - she introduced herself. Kathleen introduced Lucie Martikan, a 350 Marin part-time intern who will support programs of the Fairfax and San Anselmo Climate Action Commission this summer. She said that we will also be supported by a second part-time intern, Elise Jonas-Delson, who will join when she finishes her studies. The Town Council still needs to interview other applicants so that the Commission vacancies can be filled.
2. CAC venue for future meetings – virtual or in-person. As a follow-up to the discussion last month, Sean Youra investigated the options for meeting in person. The Town Clerk clarified that we could not meet outside due to the constraints on technology – the only options are: council chambers, the historical museum, and the conference room. The group discussed the options: in-person for members and virtual for the public, all virtual, or in-person for some members (in Town Hall) with options for virtual for members and the public. Kathleen said that she preferred keeping the virtual option for members so that they could participate if they were out of town. Sue said that because we are in a COVID surge, we'd like to stay virtual. The CAC approved the motion to keep meetings all-virtual.
3. Climate Action Coordinator report – Sean Youra gave an update on his activities. Waste regulation compliance has taken most of his time - Zero Waste Marin grant reporting and budgeting for 1383 activities. CalRecycle wants multi-unit dwellings and

commercial buildings to ensure compliance on the composting requirement. Town has a lot of work to do, including identifying edible food recovery programs, and procurement policy enforcement. Baseline will be established using data from Marin Sanitary. Also, a waste characterization study will be carried out. He suggested that the CAC can help find food recovery organizations, such as ExtraFood, and investigate whether they work with Tier 1 and Tier 2 businesses. He said this would help reduce Town emissions by 13%. Jody asked whether Waste was that large of a category – we need to review the waste components in the Climate Action Plan to understand the benefit.

Karen commented that we need to provide more public information on why we don't accept uncompostable materials like milk cartons and biobags. (Bioplastics do breakdown but it breaks down into materials not suited to organic waste.) It would also be useful to provide information on compost creation and use. Marin Sanitary has sent out information on the waste diversion issue but we could also revisit the San Anselmo Food Ordinance Guide contents. It was suggested that we schedule Town compost giveaways. Judith supported that idea, agreeing that residents do need to know why they are composting. We need to make waste sorting easier and help businesses find compostable materials to use. It was suggested that we could publicize some Town success stories to promote good behaviors - spotlight community members who have done the right thing – Climate Champions - via Social media, via newsletter. Karen said that graphics and messages are already in the fooware brochures and CAC pledge card. Alexis commented that she works with zero waste schools. We might want to move towards a Reusable First community identity. To be effective at implementation, need coalitions or teams to support them. Alice Simenstad and Hayley volunteered to help with the interviews, after finals.

Sean also reported that he has been working to recommend more money in the 2022-23 Climate Action Fund, doubling last year's funds. San Anselmo will not have a separate Environmental department, but Sean will be involved in allocating money for projects to the various Town departments. Alexis said we need criteria for using climate funds so they are used strategically to augment existing budgets. Sean is part of the MCEP team working on the "EV Acceleration Plan" that should be done within 2 months.

We expect that we might have priority work plans, a set of accomplishments, and the 2020 GHG emissions report in time to report to the Town Council in July.

4. Kathleen distributed 3 work plans, including Transportation, Clean Energy- Building and other Electrification, and Waste management. Each workplan has a description of the current state, some success measures, near term (2023) goals and longer term (2030) goals, and a start on listing of required resources but not all of the information is complete. We agreed to defer a detailed discussion until the June meeting. Comments on the drafts:

- a. Karen: we need to identify low hanging fruit and activities where we have budget to support. Possibly consider narrowing our efforts, focusing on just one or a smaller number of activities to complete in a specific time period.
- b. Mike: Not sure we need more ebike chargers. There is a bigger need for EV chargers. He asked about available usage data? Sean will get that usage data via Chargepoint accounts. Though the Town municipal chargers are in the Plugshare app, we probably also need signs. And, we need clear reporting on broken charging equipment – who to contact.

Action items:

- Sean to share municipal charger usage data.
- Reschedule discussion for June and discuss how we might narrow our focus.

VI. Old Business Discussion/Update

1. Transportation.

Gas Pump labeling – Michael is still researching the Cambridge, MA experience with the ordinance to label fuel pumps with “warning labels” on climate change. We may also want to research Berkeley and Sweden experience. We may have to do a public survey at some point. Will have to talk to the Town attorneys about questions to ask.

Action item: Michael to expand research on gas pump labeling experience.

2. Electrify Everything

- Kathleen reported that the proposed San Anselmo health and safety code ordinance requiring all-electric in new buildings is on the Town Council agenda tomorrow night. A public opinion survey was made available. Initial survey results showed some opposition to the ordinance. Kathleen will make a brief statement as part of the Town staff presentation. Other CAC members are welcome to make written or spoken comments on the ordinance.
- County Green Building Reach code under development –public workshops are being scheduled – there is one on 6/22. Requesting volunteers to participate.
- Opportunity to learn about Cal Green Tier 1 and 2 Green Building Codes (statewide code requiring sustainable design) at the June 13 Fairfax CAC meeting
- Discuss possible timing for proposal for landscape equipment ordinance revision to phase in ban on additional landscape equipment (Sean). Will build on staff report for Fairfax which will be presented in June. Maybe bring it back to the CAC in July, August. County is now interested in adopting something like this. Sean talking to Marin County Parks. CAC could help target outreach to landscapers – to see how they feel about ordinance expansion and rebate program.

Action items:

- Identify CAC member to attend the 6/22 meeting Green Building workshop.
- Identify CAC members to attend Fairfax CAC meeting June 13 to learn about CalGreen Tier 2 for residences.
- CAC members to do outreach to landscaping businesses to discuss potential future rebate/trade-in programs related to expansion of the leaf blower ordinance.

3. Reduce Plastic Waste and Food Waste.

- Sean Youra gave an update on the foodware ordinance compliance from the consultant, R3. He is working on defining a temporary exemption process - researching how it was handled in San Mateo County. May do temporary exemptions for plastic lids, soup bowls based on

what is available in market. Likely scheduling second site visits in June – at that time R3 will assess whether they can become compliant, and whether an extension might be applicable. CAC members could visit separately from Claire (R3), possibly taking examples. The County will take over enforcement 11/23 if Town adopts the recently passed County ordinance.

- Sue reported on a conversation she had with Peet's coffee. She told them about the ban on single use plastics. The staff member said they had to follow corporate guidelines. Sue has reached out to Peet's. It was suggested that perhaps a Town officer should contact these franchise companies to inform them about Town rules. Safeway has started to give out large plastic bags again, and this needs to be investigated.
- Trash management in Town parks, facilities - The bin pilot status will start soon – Parks and Recreation will move circular bins to a different part of the park. We have confirmed that Marin Sanitary can pick them up. Additional garage style cans will also be placed in Creek Park.

Action items:

- Sean to work with Dave Donery on the temporary exemption process.
- Sean to research ability of Town to contact Corporate headquarters for Peet's and Safeway and other franchise businesses.
- CAC to Reach out to Jinesse for her kit of compostable/reusable items and identify volunteers to do followup with businesses after R3's visit.
- Kathleen to research Safeway plastic bag issue.

4. Public Outreach and Education

- **CAC Climate Conversations** – The CAC will participate in the Fairfax Ecofest with an EV in the parade. Seeking bike riders or ebike riders and walkers to hand out information at the parade. Plan to table from 12-4 or 5 both Saturday and Sunday. Our tent will be next to the Fairfax CAC. Kathleen will bring tablecloth and a couple of portable chairs Karen offered her portable table. Sue, Michael, Ingrid, Lucie, and Kathleen have volunteered for a shift – Kathleen will send out a schedule to confirm assignments.
- **Future events:** Someone should review the summer concert schedule and consider dates to table on the Avenue before and during the event.

Action items:

- finalize staffing for the Ecofest; prepare some informational handouts on the Climate Action Commission and Building Electrification.
- identify future public outreach events for the summer

5. Requests for future agenda items

- 2020 GHG emissions report and presentation to Town Council
- Climate Action Fund – sourcing, budget decisions
- Water conservation
- Town Hall solar design/specifications via a solar consultant hire.

VII. Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm. Next meeting: June 27