

**San Anselmo Climate Action Commission**

**Monday, August 22, 2022 @ 7 p.m.**

**Via web meeting**

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Members present: Kathleen Gundry, Sue Saunders, Karen Mendelow, Michael Kamerick, Judith O'Rourke, Hayley Ballard, Ingrid Wahlstrom, Cynthia Briggs

Others present: Sean Youra (Climate Action Coordinator); Jody Timms, Bridget Clark, Elise Jonas-Delson, Tarrell Kullaway

**II. Open Time for Public Expression**

Michael Kamerick discussed the current state of EV rebates/tax credits. The passage of the Inflation Reduction Act has caused a fair amount of confusion about rebates and eligible vehicles; clarifications to the tax code are expected from the Treasury Dept. In the meantime, consumers may hesitate to buy a new EV. Ride and Drive Clean is pushing people to do research into future purchases but there is an expectation that sales will be slow due to lack of availability and now the uncertainty about the new credits. We should look for a summary of available rebates/credits and stay up-to-date as they evolve. Sue will check with Ride and Drive Clean to see if they have this information. Tarrell pointed out that ebikes are available and offer a good alternative form of clean transportation. She said that the Marin County Bicycle Coalition would be glad to give a CAC presentation.

**III. Approval of Minutes.**

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

**IV. Presentation**

None

**V. New Business Discussion/Action**

1. The discussion of Town climate funding plans was deferred to September. Alexis Fineman is meeting with several people on the topic and will prepare to discuss next month.
2. Kathleen asked for input to the annual CAC status update for Town Council that we hope to schedule in September. CAC members suggested:
  - clearly explaining the goals of the Climate Action Plan and our progress towards them represented in the GHG Emissions inventory report.
  - communicating that there is a climate emergency.
  - thank them for the progress to date and express that we've had an impact but it's not enough.
  - remind them that actions need to ensure equitable solutions.
  - describe the array of priority projects as our effort to try everything to reduce emissions, remembering that every action makes a difference.
  - suggest that climate actions need to be taken by residents, that our community is not fully aware of how they can help, and that the Town Council should lead in this awareness. This might include taking advantage of the community weekend events,

further promotion of MCE Deep Green, and promotion of the upcoming Marin Green Home Tour.

3. Cross-commission coordination in San Anselmo Karen suggested trying to organize a November summit meeting of representatives of the various Commissions. She offered to help organize it. We will need to consider the Brown Act and whether it needs to be a noticed public meeting. Sean said we could ask Robin Clifford.

**Action items:**

- schedule climate action fund finances for September meeting - Kathleen
- talk to Bridget Clark about possible tabling at Town weekend music events – Kathleen
- seek a list of Commission leaders from Robin Clifford; coordinate with Town staff representatives; send announcement of possible Commission summit for information sharing - Karen

**VI. Old Business Discussion/Update**

**1. Transportation —**

- EV Acceleration Plan Draft - Sean previously shared the draft Marin Countywide EV Acceleration Strategy from MCEP that identifies barriers and strategies to overcome them. He has received some comments but he can still accept feedback. Public comment may continue through 2022. In 2023, towns will decide what to prioritize in terms of implementation. Plan to present to Council this winter. Likely will result in update of the EV strategy from 2019, which will be retained as a document separate from the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

- EV infrastructure reach code for San Anselmo and County - Sue and Karen are working on an EV infrastructure reach code for San Anselmo and the County that goes beyond State requirements. Want to propose EV infrastructure as part of this Green Reach Code proposal for 2022. Have looked at reach codes from other California towns. Albany has the highest requirement - 20% of units in multi-unit developments must have charging stations; remainder must be EV ready. The County announced their intent to adopt CalGreen Tier 1 but it doesn't go far enough in terms of EV charger requirements. The goal is to promote charging infrastructure installation during new construction as modifying parking lots later is expensive and has an emissions impact (from demolition and replacement of concrete). But requiring more chargers can increase the construction cost, a price that might be borne by renters. Considering proposing a Town ordinance on EV charging infrastructure in order to increase requirements beyond CalGreen Tier 1. Cynthia noted that low carbon is a solution to the emissions problem – there is a source in South San Francisco.

- Fleet electrification funding applications – Sean provided an update from TAM on fleet electrification plans for Town. Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) will work with individual jurisdictions on 3-5 pilot projects. Jurisdictions could partner on projects, like joint vehicle procurements. Our proposals were also submitted to MTC. The Bay Area Air Quality district will release new funding in 2023 to support fleet conversion planning.

**Action items:**

- Sean to complete fleet electrification plan/policy and continue to evaluate funding
- develop recommended code for EV infrastructure to be included in the reach code – Sue

Review EV Acceleration Plan draft and provide comment– all members

## 2. **Electrify Everything**

- County Green Building Reach code - Sean shared an update on The County Sustainability Team work on an updated Green Building Reach code. California building standards code is updated every 3 years. Individual towns can adopt stricter standards codes. County efforts are focused on part 6 – energy code, and part 11 – green building standards (Cal Green). The County is drafting a reach code beyond the 2022 California Energy Code. Will address all-electric for new construction (single family, multifamily, and commercial). Will address energy efficiency savings beyond state code for renovations of certain types, sizes (greater than 750 sq ft). This is the part that recommends Cal Green Tier 1 for EV charging. It DOES NOT establish requirements for substantial remodels or all-electric requirements for renovations or remodels. Nor does it address replacing gas with electric at time of replacement. County seeking reach code adoption by Q4 2022. Hoping to release for public review in August 2022. Town staff wants to spend more time studying alternatives to the proposed code, so adoption may be slightly delayed. Recommends that the CAC review the draft ordinance and propose additions/modifications to Council. This presents an opportunity to strengthen the reach code.
- Possible timing for proposal for landscape equipment ordinance revision to phase in ban on additional landscape equipment; CAC role in outreach. Sean will initially present staff report, identifying issues, seeking direction from Council, possibly at the 9/13 meeting. He is working with Dan Gorman of Jacksons hardware about rebate program. They carry electric versions of all the types of equipment. Want to keep the trade-in at Corporation Yard. Want to do outreach to landscapers about possible issues – Cynthia will make some calls. State California Air Resources Board (CARB) will also offer rebates for small landscape businesses for off road equipment (landscape maintenance equipment) and batteries.
- Town Hall solar –Sean shared the Sage Energy proposal for Town Hall solar feasibility study and PG&E interconnection application submittal- - and the related staff report – to be presented for approval and funding by Town Council tomorrow. Kathleen suggested that the CAC approve submittal of an email to the Town Council, recommending funding for this initial contract as the first step in establishing a Resilience Hub. It would simply state the CAC’s agreement with the staff report and be signed with CAC member names. The plan is to design a Solar PV array and battery storage with microgrid control – to provide power during power outage. BayRen is promoting resilient libraries, also. Sage would provide initial estimates, conceptual design. Probably include 100 kw solar system for town hall, and police and a small one for the library. Or could connect the library to Town Hall system. Plan to build solar carports behind town hall and in Magnolia lot. Want to lock in NEM 2.0 rates so we need to submit a design and application soon. Sage will help plan the financing, probably through a power purchase agreement where a 3<sup>rd</sup> party owns the installation. This will need to be reviewed by the Town Finance director. Karen said it would be good to provide the Town Council with a vision for the resilience hub for context. But, the item is on the Consent Agenda and is simply a request for approval and funding of the contract. CAC members will plan to speak at the meeting. It was moved and seconded that the CAC express support for the approval and funding of this design phase of the project. It was approved by unanimous vote.

**Action items:**

- Contact landscape firms about possible ordinance banning gas-powered landscape equipment, and anticipated rebate program – Cynthia
- Research other municipal green reach codes to identify additions to the County draft code – Kathleen
- Send email to Town Council about CAC position on solar design contract - Kathleen

**3. Reduce Plastic Waste and Food Waste.**

- Foodware ordinance implementation – Ingrid and Hayley met with Flourcraft and MH Bread and Butter and interviewed them about their progress. MH Bread and Butter – switched to compostables and implemented the cup charge. Flourcraft did those things but also started donating to Extrafood. Hayley reported that The Hub now has all compostable takeout containers. They are starting to use new shake cups and have hay-based straws. Kathleen said that Baan Thai and Sushi 69 containers are almost all compostable. Want to feature in newsletter and social media. Kathleen suggested giving reviews on Yelp, referencing the containers.
- Sean reported that the R3 contract ended; they provided an outreach tracker. Now, CAC and town staff will need to work with the businesses. County has adopted a similar ordinance; if the Town adopts the County ordinance by May, 2023, the County will help with enforcement, starting in November.
- **Action items:**
  - Hayley and Ingrid to write up short text about the business success stories. Consider short videos.

**4. Public Outreach and Education**

- Community Climate Conversations table events – Good Earth event went very well. Would like to schedule some others – will talk to Bridget about possible weekend evening event.

**5. CAP update status**

- Lucie has done some work on updating the document. Kathleen reminded Sean to ask Christine O'Rourke about her availability to work on the measures update in October.

Action items: Try to schedule time with Christine O'Rourke in October to work on CAP measure update.

**6. Requests for future agenda items**

- Expanded landscape equipment ordinance -September
- Climate Action Fund – sourcing, budget decisions – September
- CAP update strategy – Christine O'Rourke – October
- Active transportation initiatives – MCBC - November
- Water conservation
- Returnable foodware service provider options
- SB 1383 implementation/managing green waste

**VII. Adjourn.** Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm. Next meeting: September 26