

Borough of Carlisle
Climate Action Commission
Executive Committee Minutes
September 16, 2021
7:00 PM

- I. Joel Hicks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present at the meeting: Joel Hicks, Sean Shultz, Karla Farrell, Sara Markowitz, Tamela Trussell, Tony Underwood, Borough Manager Susan Armstrong, Public Information Coordinator Stephanie Taylor and Borough Secretary Joyce Stone.

Mohamed Badissy attended via Zoom

II. Meeting Minutes

- A. Executive Committee voted 8-0 to approve the August 19, 2021 minutes. (Hicks/Underwood)

III. Public Comment

No public comments were heard

IV. Chair updates

- A. Widener and Dickinson Student projects

- Councilor Hicks noted the student projects being worked on by Widener and Dickinson College will help meet the CAC sustainability goals.
- The future Sustainable Working Group meetings will be open to the public

- B. Update on Status of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

- RGGI was approved which will help the CAC to reach their targets.

- C. Function of Climate Action Commission post-Climate Action Plan submission in October.

Mr. Hicks noted the Borough is searching for a candidate to fill the position of the Sustainable Community and Economic Planning Department Director. This person will be a direct contact for the CAC and will make recommendations on how to move forward. Discussion ensued regarding if the majority of the CAC work over the next year would specifically focus on the six identified projects. There was consensus among the Commission to reorganize the existing teams, focus on prioritizing on the existing six projects, and consider restructuring at the October meeting.

Mr. Badissy noted it has been hard for the Projects Team to focus on priority projects due to a sort of false narrative. He noted that if a goal is connected to a particular outcome such as carbon reduction, increased energy access, or reducing energy poverty, it could be considered for public support and endorsement by the Commission.

After further discussion there was consensus to narrow the direction and focus on the six goals then engage the public with a specific strategy. A key input moving forward is to align the choices with what the community values. Mr. Hicks encouraged the Commission to review the public survey feedback to see the useful types of projects for consideration. He noted the present plan needs to include quantification of the criteria.

The Climate Action Commission voted 8-0 to consider at their October meeting a way of organizing that specifically meets the six deep dive projects that are identified in the draft climate action plan. (Hicks/Shultz)

D. Team Lead Updates:

A. Community Engagement: Sara Markowitz

- The team is completing their review on the survey data.
- The survey is still online for the six direct projects.
- Door hangers are ready for distribution for citizens to provide feedback
- Presentation of Action Plan at the November 3, 2021 Council Workshop with Council approval at the December 9, 2021 Council meeting.
- Discussed planning a public presentation to increase awareness of the commission's focus and projects.

B. Pathways & Analytics: Tony Underwood

- Transitioning the fact sheets into the plan to prepare for the upcoming presentation

C. Zoning: Karla Farrell

- Coordinating potential design guidelines based on the objectives provided
- Cross Checking those with the comprehensive plan as they relate to climate change
- Narrow down to five zoning or ordinances projects to relate back to the six CAC projects.

D. Projects & Estimates: Mohamed Badissy

- Team to begin work on EV infrastructure, reducing the carbon footprint of municipal buildings, along with energy consumption and infrastructure.
- He noted an increased activity of Boroughs the size of Carlisle taking on their own energy infrastructure projects.

Councilor Hicks added the first version of the Climate Action plan should be viewed as a living document with updates made throughout the upcoming year. He noted Karla Farrell and Tamela Trussell are to speak at the upcoming South Mountain Partnership meeting to share CAC key goals and objectives with the community.

Sara Markowitz addressed a concern of promoting electric vehicle infrastructure in a community with egregiously low wages. She noted addressing affordable housing can also have an impact on the environment.

Councilor Hicks agreed and that the CAC goals should not be rigidly applied across the community. If the most benefit for low-income residents is to provide energy efficiency to homes to lower energy bills, then the commission can focus that aspect of their goals where it can help them the most.

Deputy Mayor Shultz remarked that this is a topic Council can address and the commission should recognize it broadly as part of the plan.

Other EC member Updates

E. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01