

Borough of Carlisle
Climate Action Commission
Executive Committee
Minutes
April 1, 2021
7:00 PM

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

Present at the meeting: Joel Hicks, Sean Shultz, Mohamed Badissy, Karla Farrell, Sara Markowitz, Tony Underwood, Tamela Trussell, Susan Armstrong, Owen Snyder, Barbara Sexton, Tom Horton, Stephanie Taylor and Joyce Stone.

II. Meeting Minutes

- A. The Executive Committee voted 5-0 to approve the March 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

III. Public Comment

Mr. Ken Slaysmen joined the meeting. He noted that he is an Environmental Economist and would like to offer his assistance to the Commission. Mr. Slaysmen will assist the Projects Estimates Team.

IV. Chair updates

- A. Highlights from meeting with City of Carlisle

Staff and officials attended a Zoom meeting with Carlisle, England where the focus was on hearing England's climate action strategies. They are focusing on five objectives:

Municipal Operations; Transportation; Reduce overall energy consumption; energy efficiency and waste management

Our Commission will present the Borough's approved pathway at the April meeting with England. There was conversation regarding collaborating on Earth Day. During the next meeting our Community Engagement Team will be presenting the objectives.

Commissioner Hicks spoke of a new community that Carlisle, England has envisioned to create from the ground up called Garden Village. The plan is to design an affordable housing community that will house about 20,000 people, and be pedestrian friendly with sustainable practices.

- B. Update on 1) Transportation, 2) Energy Decarbonization, and 3) Energy Efficiency and Behavior Interteam Groups (ITG)

Mr. Hicks suggested the best utilization for the Project & Estimates Team would be to focus on four to five high impact actions that could address any of the sectors. They would then be tasked to look at several alternatives for accomplishing the actions, while working closely with the other teams. Results could be derived from a cost benefit analysis that reflects economic and social cost and benefits. The team would then provide a recommendation to Council. The Pathway & Analytics Team would take a look at the lower level assessment of the remaining viable actions and decide if they are worth considering.

Ms. Markowitz noted a possible project for a team to work on would be the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) which is energy decarbonization efforts. Mr. Hicks thought that would be a good project for the groups to work on. Ms. Markowitz spoke of a conversation with a business owner regarding reducing or eliminating truck traffic through downtown Carlisle. She added there is community support for this issue. There was a conversation regarding documenting the suggestions for improvement that can't be addressed at this time for future consideration.

Mr. Badissy inquired if a different terminology could be used for projects organized by the CAC that require budget support from the community and Borough versus projects that are just policy choices by the Borough. He used CCA as an example that would just need approved by policy. Mr. Hicks is not opposed to recommendations for these types of projects that can be coordinated in the inner team groups, but he recommended keeping the focus of the teams on specific alternatives. He noted that this Climate Action Plan is a sophisticated plan that will have actionable items for Council to consider.

Borough Manager Armstrong spoke of truck traffic concern in the Borough and noted that there was an immediate reduction in truck traffic with the implementation of the Road Diet in 2010. She remarked there was a great amount of outreach with the trucking companies at that time and looks at this as Phase 2. Ms. Armstrong noted a staff member who has a good understanding of PennDOT rules and regulations will be attending the Transportation subcommittee meetings.

Mr. Underwood suggested the Projects & Estimates team take a detailed look at one kind of direct control of municipal action and work with Borough staff to put together a tangible cost benefit analysis of municipal operations. Those results could be meaningful for a near-term commitment by the Borough, along with the long term changes. He recommended near-term commitments such as EV charging or ramping up LED lighting, where the costs and benefits would be fairly tangible and easily calculated. There will be additional discussions regarding adding this item to the Borough list of initiatives.

Mr. Underwood spoke of the recent Federal Infrastructure bill that is being discussed. He noted audits have been done over the years on the I-81 safety corridor from the Borough to Shippensburg with the biggest culprit of truck traffic in the Borough being accidents on the interchanges. He suggested an action plan could be to work with both the federal and state governments to accelerate plans for redoing the I-81 interchanges from Hanover Street to exit 52. Mr. Hicks stated that was a good example of a high impact item to highlight that would not require a lot of time.

Mr. Shultz remarked there may be an opportunities to fit the Federal Infrastructure funds into a project where the Borough is a participant and create a program or initiative through those funds.

Mr. Hicks noted the efforts of the Projects & Estimates Team has placed the Borough in a good position to be competitive for upcoming grants. He suggested having discussions regarding financing strategies for using projected budgets to help finance some of the CAC projects and what threshold to consider in terms of matching grant costs.

Discussion ensued regarding the team leads on choosing their high priority projects in order for the Projects & Estimates Team to explore.

V. Team Lead Updates:

- A. Community Engagement: Sara Markowitz
- Working on Earth Day with Destination Carlisle
 - Dickinson College Intern will outline ideas for Sustainability Award and mini grants for businesses. There will be three categories: small business, non-profit or NGO specifically for a community initiative and a youth or student project.
 - Increasing communications between the County and Borough regarding Climate Action Plans.
 - Reviewing the survey to incorporate the specific actions the PET will be conducting on the cost benefit analysis.
 - Coordinate meeting with focus groups and stakeholders.
- B. Pathways & Analytics: Tony Underwood
- Working on fact sheets for different actions and projections
- C. Zoning: Karla Farrell
- Reviewed the action plan summary report
 - Conversations will take place with possible persons for the sub groups
- D. Projects & Estimates: Mohamed Badissy
- Planning the parallel sub-teams that will consist of several members to work on the high impact initiatives.
 - Discussing strategies for the initial outlining of what needs to be determined in order to conduct the cost benefit analysis.
 - He is with a consortium that is collaborating with governments regarding Sustainable Policies for Municipalities, specifically in the solar space. They could be source of information.

VI. Other EC member Updates

Ms. Barbara Sexton commented that the Harrisburg Senate will consider in April an EV bill that would require electric distribution companies in major metropolitan areas to develop EV charging station infrastructure plans.

Mr. Tom Horton communicated the Carlisle School Science Department is working with the Penn State Extension on four acres of pollinator gardens on the main campus and planting two to three hundred trees in recognition of Arbor Day.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.