Location: Ashland Town Hall

Present:
Matthew Marshquist (Co-Chair)
Kyle Ahlers (Co-Chair)
Margy Gassel (Member)
Chuck Lidz (Member)
Ashwin Ratanchandani (Member)
Rob Moolenbeek (Member)
Tessa Venell
Elina Navruzbekova
Alexandria White
Karen Ahlers

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Inventory

The committee reviewed documents and resources provided by Megan Aki, a Clean Energy Analyst at MAPC. She is developing tools for municipalities to use in Net Zero planning. These will include a greenhouse gas inventory tool, which is being piloted with Arlington, Melrose and Natick currently. This may be ready in the Fall, or certainly by the new year. They are also developing a Net Zero playbook.

In the short term, she provided some resources to get the group started:

- A summary of process for the creation of a greenhouse gas inventory
- A list of publicly available data that can be used for the creation of a greenhouse gas inventory

There is a technical assistance grant which MAPC offers to communities for planning and other related purposes. The next call for entries will be in December, with the deadline likely on February 1st (Based on 2018-2019). That timing may be too late for us to meet the deadline of Spring town meeting for the Net Zero plan. The committee discussed various
approaches to the work. It seems likely we will need some help from experts, either with the inventory, or forecasting, so for the short term, we will begin to research vendors who may be able to assist us in addition to MAPC. Ash and Matt will take the lead on this work.

**Net Zero Buildings**

The committee also discussed how to bring a Net Zero approach to some big projects which are coming up for the town, including the public safety building and Mindess school building. Matt requested earlier this year that Rob Moolenbeek and Wayne Bates monitor those projects so that the committee would be informed of developments and be able to take action as needed. Rob was at the meeting and provided an update on the public safety building. Having spoken to Michael about that project, Rob conveyed that it was still in the very early stages, as they have been working on where the building will be sited on the lot.

There are concerns about increased costs for a Net Zero building, however there will be a long-term cost savings. Ash mentioned that even if the buildings are not Net Zero, a building which as an 80% reduction in emissions from the baseline is still a huge improvement. Chuck mentioned that a developer he knew had told a story about saving 25% on energy simply by angling their building for passive solar.

Elina, who recently attended the week-long YEA (Youth Empowered Activism) camp, suggested applying for grants to assist with the increased costs of solar. The grants available are probably too small to cover a significant portion of the costs associated with a building project but the group discussed other potential uses for the funds, including projects which could be done at the high school. These include addressing the use of too much single use plastic in the cafeterias and/or starting composting. Ash and Karen also encouraged Alexandria and Elina to attend meetings like the Select Board to learn more about these projects and make their views heard. As Elina expressed interest in starting up an environmental club at the high school, Matt will reach out to the environmental studies teachers to discuss how to make this happen.

The committee discussed possible approaches to becoming more involved in the building projects. It would be helpful to have a sustainability committee representative on those committees. Although this also requires a commitment from a committee member. Matt mentioned that Wayne will be traveling for most of August and it may be necessary to find someone else for that project. At the time of this meeting, that would be Rob for public safety, Margy for YMCA and Ash/Kyle to cover the new school.

Chuck and Margy plan to attend the Select Board meeting to request that a committee member be added to those meetings and that Net Zero be considered in the design and construction. Matt will reach out to the building committees via email to request a seat at those meetings.

**Net Zero Outreach**

The committee then discussed various options for outreach and events.
Matt proposed hosting a few additional forums on Net Zero before town meeting. Chuck suggested the committee may do outreach to specific groups in town instead of a larger forum, with many of the same people. The committee reviewed a list of potential groups to reach out to including: ABA, Conservation Commission, Open Space, Community Preservation Committee and others.

The goal would be to have each committee member present the warrant article and gather feedback. Each member would gain experience talking about the initiative and bring that experience back to the group to help refine the warrant article and our message.

Matt will distribute the list of groups, each committee member will sign up for the groups they would like to present to and arrange a date to meet with them.

In addition to this outreach, the committee will continue to educate about the need for the town to adopt a Net Zero goal. This may include articles in Local Town Pages. The deadline for the next article is August 10th.

- To do: Matt to distribute list via google docs.
- Ashland Day
- Outreach:
  - Local town pages articles
  - August 10th
  - What is the town doing to be green?
- Begin researching resources for doing the greenhouse gas inventory.

A motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:**

August 6th, 7pm

**The following documents were used by the committee for this meeting:**

- MAPC - A summary of approaches to doing community greenhouse gas inventories
- MAPC - List of publicly available data sets.