

Commission for Energy Use and Climate Change

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2018

Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue., Somerville, MA

Attendees:

Ramon Bueno – Commissioner

Eliza Johnston – Commissioner

Michelle Melton – Commissioner

Juliette Rooney-Varga – Commissioner

Julie Wood – Commissioner

Oliver Sellers-Garcia – (member ex-officio) Director of Office of Sustainability and Environment

Hannah- Office of Sustainability and Environment

Larry Yu

Review and adopt the minutes from the October 10, 2018 meeting

- Approved

Discussion of Somerville Climate Forward release

- The Somerville Climate Forward Update got bumped from the BOA Open Space, Environment, and Energy committee meeting agenda. It is disappointing that we didn't get to update the committee as we had really hoped to engage them on the actual items of the implementation prior to the launch. Commissioners will contact their aldermen and ask that they attend the launch event on November 28th. BOA have been invited. Alderman Ballantyne is speaking, others may attend.
 - It was decided that the plan does not need to be approved by the BOA, however they will need to feel comfortable with the actions as we may need to get approval for funding for specific initiatives
- Hannah provided an overview of the Somerville Climate Forward launch event agenda, including the speakers and video. Then open house will have 5 discussion tables (City staff and working group members), action tables (sign-up for 100% green w. Good Energy, Green Energy Consumer Alliance, MassSave sign-ups, Blue Bikes/Somerville Bike Committee, signing up to volunteer/be community liaison, making a pledge/photo on the green carpet), related Greentown companies and food! Commission discussed ideas for activities – some ideas include: goal and visual representation for 100% green sign-ups, maps of vulnerable areas, back-packs of carbon emissions, large visuals of data from inventory or vulnerability assessment, write-in boards for residents to write what is important to them. It seems key for the discussion tables to have visualization of data or question (e.g. talking points for committee members or quizzes for volume of trash, recycling or fabrics).
- Discussion of how the plan addresses equity and how Somerville is measuring equity with other metrics. Oliver suggested that the City staff and working group members who are facilitating the discussion tables to raise the question of equity. Hannah talked about the outreach around the invitation to the launch event including those groups not typically engaged in climate.

- Finally, we discussed the how the commissioners can get involved. Juliette will be a speaker and will run EnRoads simulation. Other commissioners will participate in certain tables -- Community discussion table (Ramon), Leadership discussion table (Julie), Volunteer action table (Michelle) will have information about the commissioner and other info about ways to get involve. Possibly ask landlords to sign-up to receive the survey link.
- Follow-up: Consider multi-lingual materials.
- Follow-up: Commissioners to send invite to networks!

Update on renter initiatives subcommittee

- Michelle provided an overview of the Landlord and Tenant Surveys and walked through each question.
- Julie: Landlord Survey is too long, suggested that we shorten it to 6 questions max and eliminate questions that offer too many responses. Do we really care if landlords live onsite? Remove #8 and #9 or combine.
- Oliver suggested that we share with SomerStat and Housing Division to get feedback.
- Dissemination mode might impact the length / level of detail.
- Expectation is that this will not be representative sample of the population but that it will be focused on willing responders.
- Ramon: Tenant's survey transportation question is too vague, potential rewording: What do you use the most? What do you depend on?
- Juliette: Tenant's survey Question #7 change to "fixed monthly rate" for heating; Question #8c add a "I didn't know about it" response option.
- Responses should not be anonymous as we need follow-up.
- Incentive for landlord might be to provide data from renters survey