

CAB November Meeting – November 9, 2015

Announcements:

- CAB was the recipient of a Mass Energy Award for our work with Mothers Out Front on signing up homeowners for clean electricity
- On November 17 there is a hearing at the State House for fixing copious gas leaks (Brookline has the 3rd most/mile in state)
- MIT, BU, Harvard, Brandeis- movements to divest (little development so far)
 - -MIT + Harvard will not divest
 - -BU could go either way- more likely that it will divest->student relationship important
- DivestFund- online auction- get donations (various degrees of things auctioned off)
 - -this group works to get institutions to divest from fossil fuels
 - -they maintain a fund that will hold donations until universities divest
- Annual appeal for funds – materials are ready to send - envelopes + letters + lists + instructions-> disperse to contacts
- Articles before town meeting on community choice aggregation
 - First- gives the board of selectmen the power to negotiate an electricity provider for the town as a default (Eversource default now)
 - Second- (submitted by Tommy Vitolo + Carol Oldham) – asks the board of selectmen to look towards green energy as default (25% -> 50%)
 - -people can opt out, people who have switched from default already will be untouched
- Article 17- town go on record opposing new pipelines through region (tell state + federal govt.)
 - -liquid gas storage sufficient to fulfill natural gas requirements
 - -new pipeline, lower incentive to reduce use of natural gas + export
 - -allies from liquid natural gas companies (Everett) – oppose pipeline
 - -FERC trumps town ordinances

Speakers:

- Henrietta Davis (Former mayor of Cambridge) + Quinton Zondervan- environmental activist CPAC- advisory committee (mitigation + adaption responses) to reduce carbon emissions of public buildings
- Cambridge has committed to strive for all new building to be net zero
 - “reduce” 70% more energy efficient
 - “produce” renewable energy (on-site)
 - “purchase”
- In addition, they are looking not just at new construction but also retrofits
- Cambridge- 80% carbon emissions are from buildings
 - only 11% buildings could be covered by solar
- Targeting all buildings – residences, municipal, commercial
- Set up a committee of developers, contractors, architects, colleges

- Worked with a consultant from Vancouver - \$300,000
- There was criticism over initial plan to target only new construction -> go for 100% of building stock
- Decision was to deal with the whole
- Definition of net zero- “a community of buildings for which annually all green gas emissions produced by buildings are offset by carbon-free production (100% renewable energy)”
- Set a goal of 70% carbon reduction by 2040
 - Multi-year plan with check-in every 5 years
 - Certain buildings need to be net zeroed at certain times
 - -2020 municipal buildings, 2022 residential buildings, 2030 labs
 - Attempts to raise renewable portfolio standard at greater rate
 - Start with municipal buildings
 - Two schools
- Tactics
 - -increase building requirements (energy points- silver/gold)- special permit
 - -zoning change
 - -cost does not correlate with energy efficiency
 - -retrofitting existing buildings through system similar to affordable housing revenue
 - Georgetown Prize- crowdsourcing to motivate cities to become more energy efficient
- Need more awareness around net-zero (reduce negative stigma of great magnitude)
- Look at www.cambridgema.gov and search on “net zero”
 - They would be happy to work with Brookline, meet with Selectmen’s Climate Action Committee, etc.