

Hamilton Environmental Impact Committee (HEIC)

Minutes of meeting, December 7, 2023

Location: Zoom call

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm by Jeanne Maurand, who called the roll.

Members present: Jeanne Maurand; Emmett Holt, Don Perkins, Kimberly Strovink

Issues discussed and votes taken:

(1) Emmett Holt

- Attended the joint Hamilton Wenham Select Board and School Committee Meeting at the Buker School.
 - Primary agenda was the towns' 2025 budget. The School Committee briefed the towns on their next budget. Nothing in the budgets specifically related to environmental issues.
 - There was some discussion about the new elementary school and they mentioned the solar array and solar roof/roof repair at the high school
- PFAS: the town was supposed to turn on a new filtration system in anticipation of the lowering levels of accepted PFAS
- No real updates, the state will test again in April

(2) Jeanne Maurand

- Meeting with Ipswich River Watershed, they were interested in the MVP grant. Vickey Masone also attended the meeting.

(3) Don Perkins

- Vehicle electrification:
 - Jeanne Maurand: discussion of consumer reports article alleging 80% more vehicle maintenance for electric vehicles vs. gas powered car.
 - Don Perkins doesn't agree with the report, it makes no sense given his understanding of the mechanics and Consumer Reports has shown a bias against EV
 - Ford Lightning Truck: monitor how well it works to counter any negative perception with first-hand experience
 - EV school buses: people are nervous about change
- Discussion of "net zero" as a target
 - This gets us to not adding CO₂ to the atmosphere but it is already there
 - We need to get into a net-negative carbon output in order to reduce what is already there.
 - Arbor Day Foundation: a tree uses up 40lbs of CO₂ and produces 250lbs of O₂
 - Brief discussion of Canadian wild fires

(4) Schools: Kim Strovink

- Plan to reach out to schools to confirm all schools are composting
- Plan to meet with school committee members
- Plan to connect with the school environmental groups

5:33PM

Invited visitor: Vicky Masone, Energy Manager for the town and for Wenham and the H/W Regional Sch District joined the meeting

Member of the public: Jill Green joined

(5) Vicki Masone

- Town Hall: Electrification of Town Hall: ongoing. Looking into geothermal heating under the DPW parking lot (a ground source heat pump)
 - Just contracted with the energy company on 11/16 and the energy audit is ongoing
 - Applying for a \$500K grant from Green Communities
- Solar panels:
 - There is a preliminary design for the solar rooftop on the high school.
 - Plan to submit to the Green School Works Program: the project is cued up to be submitted once the grant is open
 - Solar credits existing will be redistributed to town buildings once the town all account is officially closed

(6) Discussion with community member Jill Green

- Interested community member. Works as an environmental consultant and does both geothermal and PFAS work
- Brief discussion about geothermal energy and the plans for the new elementary school
- Jeanne Maurand encouraged Jill Green to join the HWCAT and promised email follow up

HWCAT: Post gathering on 12/6. Topic is how to get young people involved in environmental issues

Next meeting will be January 4, 2024, 5 pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Prepared by:

Kimberly Strovink

Respectfully submitted as approved at the June 6, 2024 meeting by Jack Simons, clerk