

Climate Resilient Carlisle Meeting with
Carlisle Environmental Sustainability Committee (June 6, 2024)
Meeting Notes prepared by Horsley Witten Group

Prompt: What do you want to prioritize? What do you want to share? What do these topics mean to you?

- R Hisey (Mac?):
 - Public education generally might change behavior more than laws and policies
 - Education around reducing energy usage
 - Education around native plantings (and damage of invasives)
 - Landscape companies
 - Habitat protection: make more explicit around supporting wildlife (pro turkeys)
 - Education!

Built Environment

- Eric:
 - Renewables: we shouldn't unnecessarily restrict the ability to generate energy in town
 - There are issues with batteries and fire codes, that's usually a state issue
 - Are there restrictions around geothermal?
 - Launa - we have a very successful install, and it worked well. We had to dig wells, and they had to be away from our drinking water. We'd like to share more information about it! It has been great!
 - Path to zero: Merging with the Climate Leaders program
 - Real estate assessment is behind
- Launa
 - Renewables: Solar bylaw - how can we get more people to start a small, distributed solar system on people's land? There's so much land!
 - We wanted to do it on our land, but that didn't work out, so we then developed the bylaw
 - Path to zero: MA is very high on energy efficiency (MassSave has been really effective). But people need to be reminded. However, we need larger scale, not just individual work.
- Sarah W - Climate Leaders Program
 - Evolution of Green Communities
 - New tier of funding if municipalities
 - 3/6 categories satisfied, the remaining three:
 - Commit to decarbonization by 2050
 - EV first replacement policy
 - Decarbonization roadmap (for municipal buildings)
 - Thoroughly underway
- Christina
 - Built environment - several folks have experienced reassessments following geothermal installation

Natural Environment

- Christina
 - Tree protection - no protection for older trees; there's a balance with tree maintenance; restrict cutting trees during nesting season
 - Balance with preserving habitat and other goals (like solar)
 - Light pollution is important, but hasn't been a priority - there are individual residents trying to create an ordinance
 - Ordinance for a percentage that all new landscaping needs to be native non-cultivars.
 - The current conservation cluster bylaw is currently a vista preservation bylaw. It's protecting new McMansions. It's greenwashing, it's not meaningful.
 - This is my top priority.
 - Opposed to No Mow May - not great for wildlife
- Tree protection discussion
 - Eric: one of my mature pine trees (80-90') fell down in a storm, nearly missed the neighbor's property and could have hit mine as well. What should we do there?
 - Glenn: Yes, this happened to me too. Questions about losing trees to solar should be considered carefully.
 - Sara: The Mass Audubon report is clear: put solar on disturbed lands.
 - Also, would have loved to know that thinning trees weakens them
 - Plus, bylaws around
- Launa
 - Huge need to increase renewables - we cannot just use the built environment, we need to use lands. We cannot just say that we can't cut down trees. We wanted to install our solar array on our 6 acres, and a neighbor said it is ugly, and didn't want to see. There needs to be give and take.
 - Landscapers - we have an all eco-friendly landscaper, and he has adjusted his work to reflect these needs
- Glenn
 - Ordinance against gas-powered landscaping--that exists in other communities, can we get that here?

Transportation

- Eric
 - EV fleet - part of Climate Leaders Program
 - First mile/last mile - important
 - Parking requirement - trying to reduce street parking (complete streets, road safety)
- Christina
 - Removing parking - don't want
- Glenn
 - Does the parking issue actually do anything?
 - Charging facilities?
 - Eric: Climate Leader issue is part of that
- Launa
 - Climate impact fee? For new houses above a certain size.
- Sarah W
 - Re: the climate impact fee - the Specialized Code is going to require more
 - Homes over 4000sq ft need to be all electric

- Sara
 - Need more proactivity around being wise in how
 - Partner with builders