



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

11:00 AM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Health and Environment Committee will meet to receive a report from the Climate Resilience Zoning Task Force.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Burhan Azeem	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dennis J. Carlone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Mar 29, 2022 11:00 AM (Committee Reports)



CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN, CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MARCH 29, 2022

11:00 AM, SULLIVAN CHAMBER

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Mar 29, 2022 11:00 AM (Committee Reports)

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Clerk Wilson, the time of the meeting having arrived, I call this meeting of the Health and Environment Committee to order. The call of the meeting is to receive a report from the Climate Resilience Zoning Task Force. Before I continue, can all of you hear me? Since I know sometimes remote participation is challenging, and I'm clear. Thank you, Councillor Carlone, for that.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, adopted by the Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation at meetings of the Cambridge City Council. To watch the meeting, please tune in to Channel 22, or visit the Open Meeting Portal on the City's website.

Today's meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, but I believe all the participants that we have seen are here remotely. If you would like to provide public comment, please go to [www.cambridgema.gov,G-O-V/publiccomment](http://www.cambridgema.gov/G-O-V/publiccomment), one word, to sign up. We will not be allowing any additional public comments sign up after 11:30 AM. With that, all of today's votes will be by roll call. Clerk Wilson, if you could take a roll call of members present.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Absent

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Present

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Present

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Present

Present - 4, Absent - 1

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Clerk Wilson.

I will, um, remind folks of where this meeting came from.

It's been a long journey. In, uh, 2017, there was a zoning petition by Doug Brown, et al, and others about establishing climate resiliency. Uh, that 2017 zoning proposal, uh, ended up in a Council Order asking for a, uh, Resiliency Zoning Task Force to look at zoning recommendations, which I'm not sure if it was passed in 2017 or not till 2018, but there was a Task Force established, it wasn't until 2019.

The first meeting of the Task Force was in January of 2019. And now, uh, three years later, we finally have a report from that Task Force. It was set up as explicitly to look at zoning recommendations related to the vulnerability assessment and some climate resilience work that the City had been ongoing. Uh, we are very excited that that report

came out.

Um, there was some delay in the report, which might be explained by staff. The final meeting of the Task Force was in April, 2021, uh, that final report, which all, all of us might have reviewed when it came out. And then it was -- the actual report, which just added some graphics, was issued February 28th, 2022.

That report was referred to this Committee for discussion. So, the City Council's not discussed the report or even had a presentation on it. The idea was to have the, the presentation in this Committee format. So, I'm very excited to have the City staff here. The ones I see on my screen are our City Engineer, Kathy Watkins, our climate sustainability guru, Seth Federspiel, Mr. Roberts from Zoning Department. We have Sarah Scott.

We have the Director of Environmental and Sustainability, I'm maybe getting some titles wrong, Suzanne Rasmussen, John Bolduc, who was leading the efforts in the City for, uh, the last couple decades, and I believe is, uh, phasing out of his work with the -- with the City.

I know that, uh, Doug Brown, who was the Co-Chair of the Climate Resiliency Zoning Task Force is with us. I'm not

sure if the other Co-Chair is here. Um, that's what I see on the screen. So what the format of this meeting really will be to turn it over to the staff and Climate Resiliency Zone Task Force Co-Chairs, I'm sure, to present the report to us to, talk about their work over the last couple years and their findings.

And then we will open it up to Council discussion, uh, on next steps. So, with that, I expect the bulk of the meeting will be, um, led by the City staff. And I am, uh, I'm happy to turn it over to the Co-Chair of the Task Force, Doug Brown, if he wants to start us off.

DOUG BROWN: Has, uh, has Iram joined yet? I'm sorry, has Iram joined yet?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: No. Assistant City Manager, Farooq, I don't see. I'm not sure if, uh, Suzanne or Ms. Rasmussen, or Mr. Federspeil, is, uh, Assistant City Manager Farooq planning on joining us, or Mr. Bolduc? Mr. Roberts.

JEFF ROBERTS: Thank you to the chair. This is Jeff Roberts in zoning and development. I, I just would -- was gonna ask, we could maybe wait a second or maybe there's a, a technical issue because, um, Iram was, uh, gonna be our,

um, kind of main facilitator and moderator for the meeting. Um, and we can certainly get started if we need to, but, oh, it looks like -- it looks like it's you here. I'm connecting right now.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. And in the last couple minutes, I see, uh, City Solicitor, Glowa, has joined us, as well as Assistant City Manager Farooq, who -- Mr. Brown, does that mean Assistant City Manager, Farooq, is starting us off?

DOUG BROWN: Yes, that, that was the original plan.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Great.

DOUG BROWN: Um, I, I'm gonna -- I'll talk a little bit about some of the history that you already covered, um, but we had planned to have her do the kickoff.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Great. Thank you. So Assistant City Manager, Farooq, and the City Solicitor, Glowa, I just said we're, we're here because after all this work, we finally have the report out. We're very excited. And really the meeting is for you to present this report, um, and then the Council may have some questions. But it really is, is kind of your presentation, your meeting, so happy to turn it over to you. And I did mention the City

staff that I did see on the, on the call.

IRAM FAROOQ: Thank you so much, Chair Nolan, and I apologize for the delay. I had -- was having a little bit of a technical glitch getting on. So, um, you may have covered this, but, uh, we're actually really excited to be here because this -- the, uh, climate change resilience zoning work, which is the offshoot of our, um, climate change vulnerability assessment that laid the foundation for, um, our climate change preparedness work.

And that, uh, was issued through the Resilient, um, Resilient Cambridge Plan last year. Um, and this is kind of the next step from there to take all of that work, uh, and translate that into, uh, into zoning in order to make us as a community, um, through our buildings more resilient in the future.

And that's -- I would say that that is, uh, that level of intervention for sure is not something that any other community has done. So, we're both really excited and really proud to be here with this scope of, um, of recommendations that we're gonna share with you all today.

Um, in terms of where we are, um, both where we came from in the process and where we are in the process right

now, um, it did take us a while to, um, to go through the whole Committee process. Uh, and, you know, twofold reasons. One, of course, we got caught in the thick of the pandemic where we weren't able to have meetings for a while.

Um, but also, I would say, um, our team, the staff team did an incredible job, along with the folks from CBI, of building consensus amongst, uh, a group of very diverse interests that were represented on the Committee. And so I, I do wanna thank Task Force members who, uh, really spent a lot of time, uh, digging through, uh, a lot of technical data and then thinking through policy work, which is, you know, two different skill sets that we were asking them to, to really focus on, on both at the same time.

And obviously my, um, my Co-Chair, uh, in this -- in this endeavor, Doug Brown, who really was the impetus, the catalyst for all of this just to start in, in the first place. Um, so I, I will actually stop there, uh, and turn it over to, to Doug for some comments on that.

DOUG BROWN: Great. Thanks, Iram. Yeah, Patty already kind of mentioned this, but um, this coming Saturday will be the fourth anniversary, April 5th, 2018 of, of the original petition that we filed. And it's been a long road, but I

think we've, we've made a lot of progress.

The original petition, um, I wanted to sort of call out, um, one person in particular, which is Mike Nakagawa, who may, may or may not be on this call, as really the, I would say, the spiritual advisor behind the whole concept. And it really comes from a place where in 2018, um, the National Climate Assessment said that you really can't depend on historical data, um, as you look forward to what the climate has in store for us in the future.

And I think that's one thing that we did, um, ultimately include here is the idea that we're not gonna look at old maps, we're gonna look at future projections. And that I think is, is if nothing else comes out of that, that one concept is really a shift in, in how we think about flooding and heat, and I think it's quite revolutionary. So, I'm, I'm excited about that.

Overall, the -- our original petition was quite an omnibus and it probably included 45 different provisions across probably 20 different categories. And, you know, what we're presenting today does not have that level of scope. You know, uh, when you put everything through a, a large Committee of 20 plus members, you know, not everything

percolates out at the end.

And so we may only have, you know, 10, 10 different provisions across five categories, but I think we're confident that those are the ones that, that everyone felt very strongly about that are most important, and that many of the things that are-- that are not captured will be captured by other work that we're doing, either through, um, the envision process and, um, some of the work we're doing at Alewife, as well as, um, you know, the, uh, work that we're doing through the urban Forest Master Plan and other, other Task Force.

So, you know, this is really-- as we look ahead to the future, this is really just the start of a long conversation and we still actually have to turn this into zoning language. You know, originally, we thought that this whole thing would take 90 days, um, and that is not what it has taken, but we're a lot further along than we-- than we were, and a lot further along than many other cities in getting ready for the future.

So, I'll turn it back over, um, but I just wanted to say, thank you for everybody attending today, and thank you for everybody who put in, uh, all those years of hard work.

IRAM FAROOQ: Chair, if I might add just one thing, I, I do wanna underscore something that, um, that Doug said about how this fits into a, a large scope of actions that the City is taking. So, Resilient Cambridge really called out a set of actions related to buildings, a set of actions related to the community, um, and then, uh, policy actions related to-- I'm sorry, infrastructure actions. o all of those pieces are being carried out in tandem.

Some are already in progress, and some we are partnering with neighboring communities on, um, some we have started to implement already. And so there's a lot of different pieces of this. And, and just as everybody reviews the work today and listens to the presentation, just keep in mind that the focus really here is about buildings and, and new development.

And then just in terms of next steps, um, that, you know, we have actually already, uh, started to work on the, the zoning text. Um, but because this is, as Doug said, fairly, uh, innovative and cutting-edge zoning, there aren't really models for us to just take and pull from.

And so they will be, uh, legal issues, for instance, that will need to be investigated as we do this. So, there

is, um, you know, while we-- while work is underway, I, I just wanna be realistic for folks to know that there is going to-- even at the staff level, we're gonna need to have a lot of back and forth and conversation. So, there's a, um, a little bit of time before we can get you the actual zoning text, but, um, but we are working on it and, uh, keeping it on the front burner, um, for sure. So, with that, I, I will turn it to-- Sarah Scott is going to do our presentation, so unless, Jeff, you wanted to add something else, I will turn it to Sarah.

JEFF ROBERTS: I'd be happy to turn it to Sarah.

IRAM FAROOQ: Sarah,

SARAH SCOTT: Thank you, everyone. Hi, I'm Sarah Scott. I am an associate zoning planner with the Community Development Department, and along with Jeff, I served as the Project Manager for this Task Force. So, I'm gonna be going through the report today. Is it all right if I share my screen?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yes. If you don't have capability, then I'm sure our Clerk will enable you to.

SARAH SCOTT: It looks like I do, so give me one second. Oh, sorry. The internet froze here. Uh, let me try

that again.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Gee, too bad we don't have a really strong and robust municipal broadband.

SARAH SCOTT: All right. Are you able to see the full PowerPoint? Yeah?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yeah, I am. I would assume everyone is.

SARAH SCOTT: Okay, great. Okay, so Iram and Doug and Coucillor Nolan, all gave some of the background on the Task Force, so I'm gonna jump right into, uh, kind of the, the meat of the discussion. Um, and as, as everyone alluded to, the purpose of the Task Force really was to identify zoning standards that would increase the capacity of development to withstand and adapt to impacts from climate change.

And we focused specifically on two impacts, flooding and the urban heat island effect, because these were the vulnerabilities identified in the City's climate change vulnerability assessment. And the zoning standards that were meant to be recommended as part of the Task Force, um, were supposed to focus on all types of development, from major new development projects that are subject to Planning Board review, to the smaller scale new development, uh, that would

probably just go through as a right procedures.

And the zoning was also meant to look at both citywide and area specific strategies. So, it was fairly comprehensive. There were 20 members of the Task Force and, uh, the, the City Manager appointed all these folks in order to try and bring together stakeholders from across the Cambridge community.

So, you can see here, just based on the different categories, that we really had a great diversity of perspectives from residents, to Union Trades representatives, Planning Board, and Cambridge Redevelopment Authority representatives. Representative--

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Sarah, can I just--

SARAH SCOTT: Yeah.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: I'm not sure, did we all sent this report in advance, or this is just something you're presenting now? Just we need to make sure the Clerk has it, but also, it'd be very good for the public too, but I don't remember getting it, so I apologize if it was an oversight.

SARAH SCOTT: Oh, sure. I think that we sent this on Friday.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay, great. Thanks.

SARAH SCOTT: Yeah. So yeah. So, we, we had a great diversity perspectives from folks, um, and we also had a few City staff who were part of the Task Force in addition to those of us who worked, I would say, behind the scenes. As Iram Mentioned, this was a two-year process.

The Task Force met about 19 times between January, 2019 and March, 2021. All of the meetings that we had were open to the public, and we did get public participation, both, uh, in person and through comment. We also maintained a website with information about the Task Force in order to ensure transparency, including for folks who weren't able to attend meetings.

And we had two joint meetings with this Committee, uh, which was a great opportunity to share the progress that the Committee was making, and to, uh, talk to Council, and then also to increase the visibility of the Task Force discussion. So that's a little bit about process.

I also wanted to talk a little bit about the contributing work that went into the Task Force discussion. The City has already done a lot of climate planning work, as you all know. So, the force looked to those plans and

reports in order to understand climate impacts, as well as adaptation strategies.

The Task Force drew on findings from the climate change vulnerability assessment, as well as recommendations from the Resilient Cambridge Plan, the Urban Forest Master Plan, and Envision Cambridge. But like Iram and Doug were saying, we really focused exclusively on zoning strategies.

And Task Force members, uh, really understood that the zoning strategies compliment the other actions that are recommended in these plans so that together, they can achieve the City's climate goals. The other important thing to note is that the Task Force shared the same team of consultants and study staff that worked on these other plans and studies.

So that was a great way to bring together all of that knowledge and have folks really be ready to start talking about zoning strategies. So, the Task Force first had a discussion about climate impacts and adaptation strategies, learning about all that work I just talked about, and then they put together a framework for evaluating recommendations. And this is where our consulting team was really helpful.

So ultimately, the Task Force decided that the goal of these recommendations was to provide property owners with flexibility and choice, while still advancing the City's climate resilience adaptation and mitigation goals, which is a difficult balance to strike, but I do think that the recommendations get at that.

In addition to that overall framework, the Task Force identified 8 principles and 13 objectives that they would use essentially to measure against the final recommendations to make sure that those recommendations are achieving these principles and objectives.

These are the eight principles. I won't go through all of them just in the interest of time, but they are listed out in the report and there's a, a nice table with a little bit more information about each one. I will just give a quick example of one. So, this is principle Number 4, use performance-based standards as well as prescriptive standards.

And this goes back to that goal of providing flexibility by offering options while still focusing on interventions that will have the biggest impact on people. The Task Force discouraged a one-size-fits-all approach, and

instead advocated for standards that allow for a range of possible solutions.

So here with the performance-based standards, those are a little bit more targeted and also more flexible, so they're good for incentivizing a particular outcome, whereas the prescriptive standards can be more straightforward and are good for setting a baseline.

Similarly, the Task Force identified 13 land use and development objectives, and these are a distillation of the Task Force's understanding of how to guide land use and development to accomplish the City's various climate goals. Some of these, it's important to note, can't be directly required through zoning. So instead, the recommended approaches would aim to encourage them.

Again, I won't go through all 13 now, but I'll give you an example of one of them. The second objective designed to recover is a standard to protect against more frequent flooding that Cambridge is projected to experience. So, the idea of recover is that we're not going to prevent impacts from all flooding, but that when flooding does occur, we don't want it to create a severe long-term situation where buildings aren't usable and people are displaced or

experienced significant health impacts.

So, the idea is that buildings would be designed to withstand and recover from projected flooding, and those examples can include wet flood-proofing, temporary barriers, choosing certain materials. Um, and it's also important to note here that the zoning standards can't conflict with a building code.

So, part of that iterative process of review that Iram mentioned is taking these types of objectives that the Task Force agreed on and trying to understand how we can put that into zoning. Okay. Moving on to recommendations. So, there were five categories of recommendations that the Task Force ended up settling on, and I'll go through each of these individually.

The first category is flood resilience standards, the second is heat resilience standards, the third are adjusting some of our current zoning standards, the fourth is about Planning Board review, and then the fifth includes some recommendations for future study.

And I think it's really important to again mention what Iram and Doug were saying that all these recommendations were agreed to based on a consensus opinion. So, all 20

members of the Task Force agreed on this suite of recommendations. And I think that that speaks volumes to the process that we had and also to the strength of the recommendations.

Together, the idea is that this suite of recommendations will help ensure that new buildings are resilient throughout their lifetime. And as Doug said, we're really trying to look towards the future. And I think that's one of the most innovative parts of these recommendations.

We're trying to use best available science, we're trying to use accepted bottles for flood projections, and we're looking at site-specific conditions as much as possible. Um, but at the same time really encouraging developers to think holistically about resilience.

The first category of flood resilience standards is about creating new development standards based on the long-term flood elevations, the LTFE, that are identified in the Cambridge Flood Viewer. So, these standards would require flood protection for all new construction that occurs on sites below the projected flood elevations.

This is a very good example of flexibility because flood protection here is defined differently for different

uses, and that's a little bit of what this graphic is getting at. Um, this is actually a concept that was developed through the Resilient Cambridge Plan, and is something that the Department of Public Works has been using as part of their review of development projects.

But basically, the idea is that higher risk uses would have to be held to a higher standard. So that's something like residential bedrooms, for example. Whereas lower risk areas can be held to a lower standard and perhaps can be designed to recover from flooding as opposed to trying to protect those spaces from flooding.

The Task Force recommended these standards and also recommended that they be updated at regular intervals as the science evolves and as these flood projections change. The Task Force also recommended a new performance-based standard that measures the heat resilience of a development proposal.

And this is essentially Cambridge's version of what's sometimes called a Green Area Ratio or a Green Factor. We called it the Cool Factor because it focuses on cooling strategies that mitigate the heat island effect, which is one of the two main vulnerabilities that the City faces.

The Cool Factor identifies a suite of building and site

strategies that are weighted by cooling impact, and that includes preserving and planting trees, having vegetated planted areas, green roofs, and also high SRI materials. The flexible thing about Cool Factor is that property owners can choose which Cool Factor strategies are most appropriate for their project, as long as the combination of those strategies helps them meet the minimum cool score, which is specifically calculated based on the conditions of the site.

And this system is a great example of how the consultants who had worked on other projects were able to come together and, uh, and develop this and really strongly base it not only in science, um, but also in Cambridge's context. They, uh, they would kind of come up with one version of the Cool Factor, run a bunch of recent development projects through it, and then continue that iterative testing, going back to the Task Force, discussing it, tweaking it, and then doing that over again.

The ideas that the Cool factor approach would work in tandem with Cambridge's other regulations, including existing zoning requirements for open space and permeable area, as well as DPW stormwater management regulations. I did wanna talk a little bit about why we went with a Cool

Factor and not a Green Factor.

Green Factor was one of these-- one of the aspects of the zoning petition that Doug had talked about. And a lot of cities with this Green Factor or Green Area Ratio type requirement also use it to address other issues, such as landscape aesthetics, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction.

And Cambridge already regulates those through other requirements. So, we decided that a broader strategy wasn't needed here, and what we really needed was to focus on the main climate vulnerability, which was heat. And the Cool Factor focuses specifically on these scientifically proven cooling benefits.

So, we're really trying to get the most bang for our buck and not, um, not allow various strategies to count if they're not actually going to have an impact on people. This is a table that's in the report, and it just compares some of the different, uh, Green Factors that you've probably seen. And these are some of the precedents that we looked at when we were developing the cool factor.

So, you'll see here that there's only two features that aren't included in the Cool Factor; water features and

pervious paving, and that's because they don't have a substantial cooling benefit. There was also some conversation with Task Force Members about whether or not to include the last two items, the high SRI paving and the high SRI shade structures.

And ultimately, because the research shows that these strategies have a demonstrated benefit in lowering ambient air temperature, they were kept, but they were given a slightly lower weight than some of the vegetated or green interventions. So that's a cool factor.

The third category about adjusting the current zoning standards is not a new standard, it's about removing impediments to make it easier for property owners to essentially do the right thing, right? To do all these different types of, um, resilient building and, and site plan, um, strategies that we've been recommending in, in various ways.

So, it's less about imposing new requirements and it's more about providing an incentive. Some of these recommendations explicitly allow structures necessary for resilience to occupy space in effect. So, whether that's gross floor area, setbacks, open space, height, and some

examples include the first three photos here.

So, on the left, you can see, um, outdoor shade canopies, also talking about exterior flood resilience measures, like stairs and ramps, and then also green roofs, not only the usable part of the green roof, but also rooftop access headhouses.

The other aspect of this was understanding that its buildings need to be elevated in order to meet the flood resilience standard that's being created, then they would also be allowed an additional four-feet above the base zoning so that those buildings are not penalized for meeting that flood resilience standard.

And then the last one is that basement areas would still be exempt from gross floor area limitations as a right as long as they meet the flood resilience standard. The fourth category looks at, um, standards for large development projects. The first three categories focuses a little bit more on the base zoning standards that would apply citywide to development of all sizes, whereas the two recommendations here would generally apply to projects over 50,000 square feet, and for projects that are part of a Planning Board review process.

The idea of the resilience narrative is that it would ask applicants to identify their flood and heat risk using City standards. You can see here examples of the heat vulnerability index and the flood viewer. And the resilience narrative would also ask applicants to describe some of the mitigation strategies that they're proposing.

The second recommendation under this category is a resilience objective that would be added to the citywide Urban Design objectives. And the idea behind that is that it would give staff and the Planning Board a way to understand how development is planned to respond to the anticipated effects of climate change.

So, neither of these two recommendations would really be much of a bigger lift for applicants, but it would hopefully encourage a more holistic approach to design with resilience in mind. I think it's also important to note here that staff and the Planning Board already pay attention to climate resilience when we're reviewing project review cases.

And we've actually already been incorporating some of the recommendations from the Task Force through, um, staff conversations and through Planning Board conversations. The

last category is about some recommendations that the Task Force had for future study.

They understood that climate science is dynamic, so members suggested that any climate resilience-related zoning amendments should be evaluated and revised as the science evolves. And that's because we really wanna make sure that we're achieving our objectives.

The Task Force also identified some related issues that could be addressed, but were outside of their scope. And that's namely looking at the City's Urban Design guidelines and then also looking at the City's parking environments. So, in terms of next steps, we are actually having a similar discussion with the Planning Board tonight. They've also been reviewing the report.

And as Iram was saying, the goal of the Task Force really was to recommend specific amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that could be translated into a formal Zoning Petition by City staff. So we've begun this process. It is very complex, it's quite iterative.

Um, no one really has done zoning like this before. We keep looking for other examples and talking to other communities, um, but we want to make sure that whatever we

come up with is going to be effective. We wanna make sure that it meets these Task Force goals, the principles, the objectives, and we wanna make sure that the City can implement it as well. So that's it for me. I am happy to turn it back over to Councillor Nolan and to Iram for questions. Thank you very much.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. Assistant City Manager, Farooq, do anyone else on your team want to add to that, or?

IRAM FAROOQ: No, that's it for us, Chair. Thank you. Um, we're happy to take any, any questions and I'll do air traffic control on those if needed.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Great. Thank you. I will note that we did not get the presentation before, uh, just a few minutes ago, but Clerk Wilson has now sent it out to the-- to the Council, um, but no one saw it before this. So, if some of the, um, questions-- we didn't have the benefit of this. Hopefully, in the future, that won't happen.

IRAM FAROOQ: No problem.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yep. So, what I'll do is-- we all add the report, we just hadn't had the presentation, obviously, um, which was a summary of the

report. It's a dense 72-page report, which is challenging to hold in mind.

So what, what I will do as per usual, is first, um, ask the Clerk if there's anyone signed up for public comment, um, and go to that, and then we'll go to, uh, Councillor questions, and Councillor Zondervan, you're first. I just thought, given someone's been-- I believe there's one person in public comment, let's hear from them, and then we'll go to Concillor Zondervan. Is that correct, Clerk Wilson, there's one person in public comment?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: That is correct. I'm, uh, pulling public comment up right now.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: The first speaker in public comment, and only speaker is Mike Nakagawa.

MIKE NAKAGAWA: Hello, can you hear me?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yes, we can hear you. And given that you're the impetus, if you need a few more minutes, you're welcome to take a few more minutes. I would extend the time to five minutes if, uh, you need it, which is at the discussion of the Chair. Thank you, Mr. Nakagawa. Go ahead.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Nakagawa, address not provided, spoke on Climate Resilience Zoning process. Mike added that the consensus project exclusively focuses on the impacts of climate change on people, and not on, how to prevent it. The Green Factor should be considered as much as the Cool Factor, and there should be a minimum green requirement. Also, suggestions such as preventing flood inside apartments near flood zones should be taken into consideration, as well.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Mike. I know you've been-- as was said at the beginning, you were the, what you referred to as the spiritual guide on this. Well, I believe, uh, Mr. Nakagawa was the only one who signed up in public comment there. Lee Farris has her hand up in the participant, so if she wants to speak, I'll call on her.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lee Farris, address not provided, spoke for the Residence Alliance, Cambridge Residence Alliance. Lee stated that the current report recommends a minimum green requirement for all projects, but the consensus process leads to a bare minimum as the requirement is more than the bare minimum to be addressed. In addition, the eventual

result of the process should include specific timeframes and a hearing to discuss further progress.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Lee Farris. Clerk Wilson, I don't believe there's anyone else with their hand raised or signed up for public comment.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: That is correct.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Which means we will move to close public comment roll call.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: On that motion;

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Absent

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Yes - 4, No - 0, Absent-1. Motion Passed.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. And thanks again for everyone, uh, who worked on this exciting work. Uh, call out to Mr. Bolduc, we may not see in Zoom, uh, long time after this. I'm not sure if there's a date. Councillor Azeem did let me know he would be joining the meeting late. He had a conflict, uh, unavoidably, so we expect to see him

at some point.

What I'll do now is for any Councillors, you know, use that raise hand function, and we'll, we'll talk about, uh, what we just heard and what the next steps are going forward. Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, my thanks as well to everyone who's worked on it, and especially to Doug and Mike and John. And it's been-- it's been a long journey. And based on, on what I've heard so far, it sounds like it's gonna be a long journey still.

Um, so I, I guess I, I have a lot of questions. I, I really appreciate the presentation and, and the report, but it still leaves me with a lot of questions. Um, starting with the proposed flood resilience standards, I'm still confused or unclear as to what's different between what is being proposed or considered versus what is already in practice at the moment.

IRAM FAROOQ: Through you, Chair, I'm gonna turn that over to Kathy Watkins.

KATHY WATKINS: Hi. So, to Councillor, what we're doing now is in many ways what we're proposing, however, what

we're doing now is working sort of, um, more collaboratively with developers and this would actually formalize and regulate it.

So, there's still a lot of discussion about sort of building the 2070 10-year storm event and then being able to recover from a larger storm event, but it would be to, to put that into zoning as a requirement. And then also, um, a fair amount of discussions about how it applies to different types of, um, uses.

So, for example, um, if you think about, you know, a large residential building that has, say, 100 units on the first floor, that, you know, sort of to recover from that is very different than if it's a lobby and other, um, type of more use that you could recover from flooding.

So one is to really get into the zoning language about those different types of uses and what we would expect in terms of recover and be protected from, but in many ways, it is what we're doing now, but building on it and making it formal and make it part of zoning so it's not, you know, us sort of negotiating in the same way with developers.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Okay. Thank you. That's helpful, but I'm still not clear then what is, is

going to change in the zoning. And I-- and I understand and appreciate that this is innovative and, and that the staff doesn't have any, um, models to start from.

But I, I, I think it would be helpful for me and, and perhaps others to at least have a list of what's being considered in, in the zoning, because, you know, it, it has been four years since the original petition, as, as Mr. Brown pointed out. And at this point, I still don't have clarity on what we're even considering in terms of changing or zoning.

So, it sounds like with the flood standards, you're essentially thinking about how to incorporate what is currently happening through dialogue with developers into real requirements, which makes sense, but what else are we considering to put into the zoning at this point?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yeah, I'm, I'm happy to have this, just respond. You don't have to go through the Chair if I'm allowed to do that.

IRAM FAROOQ: Okay. Thank you. So, Councillor, you know, I think every-- I would say everything that we talked about today, we are expecting to translate all of that into, into zoning language. Um, we don't have that, the language

and the, the exact specifics.

And, you know, I understand that all of you, since you work to adopt zoning, you understand that, and we understand that a lot of the double is in the details as this gets written. So, there will need to be a lot of thought on that. Um, but we, we didn't wanna bring you unformed ideas without having made sure that we have gone through process with even a legal check, because the Law Department hasn't even seen the concepts that we are-- we are talking about.

So, we don't wanna bring you something that is not-- is not written in an appropriate way yet. But, but in terms of what the intention is, all of the items that we've talked about would be advancing. That's the-- that's the goal.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Okay. I, I appreciate that. And, and I'm certainly not asking for, um, you know, a rough draft, but, but more of an outline that says, you know, these are the 10 items that we're working on in terms of incorporating into zoning. And, and maybe give us a sense of, you know, this one's close, this one is pretty far away from, you know, draft language, you know, just so we have a sense of what is happening, because right now, it's just this, you know-- at least from where I sit, it's, it's a

fairly unstructured.

You know, it's like this cloud of stuff that we're working on that someday will come before us, but, but we really have no insight into, into that beyond, beyond that. Um, my, my final question or comment for now is on the-- on the Cool Factor. And I was particularly struck by the, you know, removal, if you will, of pervious, uh, paving, which is so important in, in terms of flood resilience and cooling. So, I'm just really surprised that, that we're deciding that that doesn't belong there for some reason.

IRAM FAROOQ: So, Councillor, it's not-- it's not going away and it absolutely is a good strategy that does have co-benefits, um, but I'll turn it over to actually Kathy and John to maybe speak a little bit about that.

KATHY WATKINS: Sure. So, Councillor, so with the, the pervious ask, you know, like if you have pervious paving, you would get credit and support under our stormwater requirements. And so, we have pretty strong stormwater requirements in terms of ensuring that projects are really managing their stormwater and improving, um, stormwater management.

And so, you would get credit there. We didn't wanna

overdo that in terms of on the Cool Factor. We really wanted the Cool Factor to focus as much as possible on things that have the strongest and direct cooling benefits. And so, when you look at the Cool Factor, you know, it's really trees planting areas, green roofs and facades are really the bulk of where the points are.

There is a small, um, amount of points that's really quite limited in terms of high SRI paving. So those are-- you know, the bulk of the strategies on the Cool Factor are really around those green items, and you would also get co-benefits of that in the stormwater management. And so the goal was to really focus the strongest number of points on things that directly cool.

And then also have them-- some of them you can get credit for both under the Cool Factor and stormwater. And so again, it would sort of push in that direction to do more green in terms of stormwater management, but again, not be overly prescriptive in terms of how they're managing stormwater, but requiring developers to meet both stormwater management and the Cool Factor.

And so that was sort of the, um, the process as we went through it. And again, through that process, with the

Committee, we really decreased the amount of points that are available for the high SRI paving. And so, it's really quite limited and the points are really coming from trees planting areas and the green roofs. I don't know, John, if you had any additional thoughts on that issue?

JOHN BOLDUC: Yeah. I mean, I would reiterate those things. I think with pervious pavement, the benefits weighted more towards stormwater management. That, of course, depends on the site conditions and pervious pavement doesn't work everywhere, um, depending on especially soil conditions.

And Kathy could talk more about that. And I think that this was more in a, uh, a way to weight things a little more toward vegetative strategies, um, and getting, getting the cooling effect from that. So, I think that's why there's that difference.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you. So, so if I'm hearing you correctly, what you're saying is that the, the strategy is really to, to minimize or reduce the amount of paved area, rather than to focus on making it pervious, which I agree with, and that makes sense to me.

I guess just, you know, maybe it's just a communication

issue, but the way it's presented, it feels like you're saying, oh, you know, we're, we're just not gonna count that. And, and you know, this clarification around the stormwater management is, is certainly helpful, but maybe put that as a footnote or, or, you know, somehow indicate that you are addressing that issue just not through points in the Cool Factor.

KATHY WATKINS: Definitely, Councillor. I mean, that's one of the challenges with this process, and Iram talked about a little bit, is that there are a lot of different strategies that are really critical in terms of, um, climate resiliency, and so they don't all fit into this bucket, but they're also all really important.

And so, we've struggled a little bit as to how to make sure we're conveying that just because a recommendation isn't included in this, does it mean that it's not important and it's not something the City's also working on. Right? So to really get at that issue is a really important strategy.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thanks. Yeah, I understand and appreciate that. I would-- I would just say, you know, put a footnote or, you know, an asterisk, or somehow help us understand that this is covered somewhere

else. Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Are you yielding for now, Councillor Zondervan?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Yes. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. Councillor Carlone?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Um, obviously, this is a critical discussion. I wanna thank Sarah for, uh, really a very excellent presentation. I think that's you, Sarah. I, I can only see from the nose up, but, uh, it was very clear, very well presented.

So, my comments are almost totally based on what was not discussed. And, um, you know, the culprits, sure, it's land use and land coverage, but it's buildings, buildings give off the heat, um, reflected materials give off heat. I don't understand that at all, I'll be honest with you, as an architect.

Air conditioning is going to be the big need because buildings are gonna get warmer and warmer, and yet we're allowing full glass on the south side of new buildings, and no mention of this whatsoever, that's a lot of the culprit. And as far as parks go, open space goes, yes, having a front

lawn with two trees is much better than not, but a sizable public park has much more of a benefit than little pieces here and there.

And little pieces here and there get dried up much more readily because there's two trees, not 40 trees in an area. So we, we all know this, and now maybe it's in the final report, but buildings are 82%, as we say, greenhouse gases. Well, they're 82% probably of heat generation as well.

Air conditioners are gonna give off heat. Reflection sends the heat and the glare elsewhere, frankly, in the public domain. And I hope we get to those things. I know there'll be Urban Design Guidelines. As Councillor Zondervan said, at least a list of what that will cover, we all know about passive design architecture.

I've done buildings in it, and I know you limit glass to 40% and you make sure no more than 60% is of the whole glass amount is on the southern facade. Now, people are gonna say, oh, that's building code. No, it's, it's guidelines, it's design review. And I hope we get into that because I think we're hitting some good points and covering some good areas, but we're missing the boat, and the boat is big.

So please tell me how we're incorporating the building design into this, other than raising it and making sure it's not in a flood zone, which Holland did in the 1600s. And I'm all for it, but, you know, how do we screen that? How do we make that feel urban? Um, and then how do we deal with the sea generation from the buildings themselves, from the energy used in buildings?

I haven't heard anything or saw or a list that included that. And I'll be honest with you, I'm, I'm a little stunned. And, and I mean that in a good way, that that's we need to work in that domain. I worked with developers almost all my life, sometimes as an architect, and I gotta be honest with you, almost every one of them is looking how to quicken the process and not inhibit what they normally do.

And, um, and it wasn't until we put guidelines in East Cambridge that the process actually improved even for developers, although they resented the hell out of it in the beginning. And I was kept off projects because the developer said, I'll build housing if we don't use Dennis. And they built an ugly building in North Point. So that's my question, where do buildings come in this? And, and, um, they should be integral in this, integral. They're the

dominant animal.

IRAM FAROOQ: Through the Chair. To you Councillor, there's just one thing I wanna mention and then I will turn it over to, to others to talk about the specifics. But the one thing I will invoke is what Mike Nakagawa had mentioned in public comment earlier, which is that, you know, this particular process and this set of recommendations are focused on building resilience over time. So, making sure that our, um, our, our buildings and our, our sites are, um, are resilient, but they are not focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, because that's happening through the Net Zero Action Plan recommendations.

But your point on heat, um, is, is a good one. And we did talk about some of those components, and I'm gonna turn it over to, to John and, and also, Jeff, to speak to some of how we are thinking about buildings in, in this picture.

JOHN BOLDUC: Yeah, I could start maybe on some of the technical issues, and Jeff could address, um, issues around building design through zoning. So, in terms of reflective surfaces, so it's an important strategy. So, when you think of the urban heat island effect, Councillor Carlone is right, the built environment is, is what it's all about.

We have all these surfaces in the City that absorb heat from the sun, so buildings, roads, and other paved surfaces. And so what determines that heat island effect is how much, um, heat those materials are absorbing. And so, increasing the reflectivity of those surfaces reduces the amount of heat that's absorbed, um, in the first place.

And you see the result, especially in evening hours when the amount of temperature increases less around areas that have higher reflectivity compared to areas that have darker surfaces. It's true that, you know, all materials give off some, um, heat, you know, that's emissivity. But it, it matters a lot how much heat those materials absorb in the first place in terms of what the urban heat island effect is.

And I guess the other thing I would say is we should keep in mind that, um, as was said, this, the zoning recommendations largely affect new development. Um, but most of, um, the problem resides with the existing building stock, which is, uh, you know, we could probably estimate by 2050, probably two thirds of the buildings that will exist then exist today. And so, something else will have to be done, uh, to address, uh, those things.

Um, you know, there are other strategies, uh, around buildings and heat, um, would protect the occupants. So, like energy efficiency measures, you know, this is where place where climate mitigation and climate adaptation come together. Better building envelopes that are well insulated can help provide passive thermal resilience to those buildings.

So, like a project like Finch Cambridge, which is meeting passive house standards, is highly insulated. Um, it's estimated it could stay safe temperature-wise inside for four or five days without any electricity if say the, the grid goes out. So those are, you know, the kinds of things we're trying to, uh, see happen as well.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: May I follow up on that? Finch is absolutely correct. It's 40% glass. North point where the whole facade is glass facing south is a joke. It's a joke. I've done buildings. I did 620 Mem Drive, it's about 40% glass facing south. They close the blinds during the day. It, it's, it's like the library; when the sun's out, you can't even see the glass because everything else is covered.

It's a false dichotomy. It's a false premise. It's a

waste of energy. Every architect knows the trick that you do everything else but the glass. You maintain the glass for the developer because that's what rents up. And then tenants complain about the glare. It's, it's just stupid, and you don't-- well, I won't continue about what you're creating, but it's a no man's land.

And when you reflect all the heat and glare, you're killing the public domain. The coolest buildings are heavy masonry buildings. Those are the coolest inside naturally, and we're going in the complete opposite direction. And this is traditional to present. In England, they're still building masonry buildings. Okay.

JOHN BOLDUC: One response, and maybe I think Seth is on, so he might be able to say something about this. But new building codes are, I think, reducing the amount of, you know, the window to wall ratio. So, I think some of those buildings you're seeing in North Point were on under the older code. So, it's not something I'm as familiar with, but, um, I think that's something else we could take a look at and see how that's going to affect.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Well, this is Urban Design, and special permits, we got it in East Cambridge,

and we had some of the toughest people. I was called names. The Head of Community Development was called names and meetings by these developers. They were all gone, they became millionaires. But, you know, we gotta step up now. It's, it's late in the game.

And I know you're trying to do everything you can, but I heard virtually nothing about buildings. And, and Sarah, I love awnings, I'm a big awning guy, but you know, that doesn't deal with it. Even putting scrims in front of all glass facades, it's a joke. Architects know it's a joke. This is the way they can do all glass buildings.

You probably know that lead wanted originally to limit the amount of glass, and all the modern architects said, no, no, no, we won't do it. And the guy that started lead eventually left, but he was very unhappy about that. So, I'll leave it there. I just feel like we're, we're, we're doing good work on the land and we're forgetting about what's causing most of the problems.

IRAM FAROOQ: It sounds like it might be helpful to add one more thing, which, you know, Jeff or Sarah could speak to in terms of, um, the design guidelines, which we are thinking about, uh, as well, making some changes to, to

those.

It may not take-- you know, this first set of recommendations may not take us to 100% of, um, where you wanna go, but, uh, I think it's-- I think you'll see that it's probably worth it to at least advance this and then we can, uh, further make greater enhancements if needed.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Well, I, I believe you, and I look forward to that. But let me say one last thing. If we leave planning to developers, you get office parks and the script. We can't do that. We can't give them an equal hand. There's some great developers, I could name a few, but why would I do that? That would be unfair to the others, that you can work with and see the big picture.

Unfortunately, one retired recently, and you probably know who. But, um, we have to take the lead, and the Council will do it if we have to, and to support what's in the back of your minds. And I'm also told John Bolduc cannot retire until his zoning is done. So, John, you really want this to happen quickly, John.

JOHN BOLDUC: Hey, you're giving me the incentive to the push.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you. Sorry, I'm

very emotional about buildings, and I think a lot of them are so mediocre. Following basic urban design and, and climate issues, you create much better buildings, much better. I'll be quiet for a while.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Councillor Carlone. I'll go to Councillor McGovern. The, the fact is what you're bringing up is we need to make sure this is comprehensive and that these are working together. And all glass buildings, from everything I've read, cannot be as well insulated, and therefore, resilient. So, they fit into a resiliency timeframe that we, we don't want buildings inside to have to generate enough protection and plus the glare to outside.

There's just lots of ways in which it would be good to have these coordinated and this not work against our-- but actually work in concert and include our, uh, missions pollution reduction goals. Um, but I will go to Councillor McGovern next.

COUNCILLOR MARC C. MCGOVERN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm obviously not gonna be able to get into that level of detail, as Councillor Carlone, but I would say, um, in terms of, you know, this has been an issue that's been raised

before around glass buildings. And I think, um, you know-- and I would certainly be happy to join Councillor Carlone and anyone else who wants to file an ordinance for us to do it.

We keep talking about it, but if, if it's really, if we wanna make that a condition for the Planning Board or, or, or condition in Zoning, then we have-- we do have the ability to do that ourselves. And we should probably talk about that. And as Co-Chair of the Ordinance Committee, happy to have a meeting to discuss that, um, if that is something the Council wants.

You know, I, I, I don't have anything new to add, other-- I just wanna offer my thanks to everyone. I know this has been a long time, uh, coming, and I know that there, you know, there's always more things, uh, that we can do, especially around, around climate change, which, um, you know, is, is incredibly complex. But I do appreciate that, you know, we are doing things that are groundbreaking as compared to other communities.

I would-- I would, um, agree with some of the comments that were made by Councillor Zondervan and others about, um, you know, I know we often try to go down the road of, uh,

incentivizing people to do things. You know, not long ago, I-- well, maybe it was long ago, I had filed an ordinance around vacant buildings, um, and issuing fines to property owners who, um, don't-- you know, who leave their buildings vacant for, for years.

I always think of Unos in Harvard Square that has been sitting there for a decade, and the Harvard Square Theater. And, and the, the City came back and said, no, we don't want to do fines. We wanna instead give incentives. And those buildings are still empty. Um, and so I think sometimes, you, you, you know--

People are concerned about their, and developers are no different, um, maybe better or worse, I don't know, but, you know, they're concerned about their profit margins and, and, and, and money, which, you know, again, many people are in business. And sometimes if you don't hit them in the pocketbook, you don't get the results that, that, that you want.

And, and I always say that, um, I like to play nice in the sandbox until someone, you know, throws sand and then I'll bury them with it. Um, you know, it's nice to go, it's fine to be nice and, and try to incentivize things, but

sometimes you gotta drop the hammer and say, these are things that we're just gonna require you to do.

So, I wanna make sure we keep that-- keep that in mind. And I do think it's, it's-- as Councillor Zondervan mentioned, I do think if there's some way that we can either in this report or, or somewhere else, note all the other things that are happening because there's are other good things that are happening. And if people don't-- you know, sometimes I think we're-- the City does a really nice job of, um, doing a lot of really good and innovative work, but we don't do the greatest job of letting people know that we're doing this.

Um, you know, if this is truly groundbreaking work, you know, where is the-- you know, where's the media coverage about this? Where is the, you know, this is what we're doing, let's lead the way, let's inspire other communities to do, uh, similar things. Um, we do the work and we do great work, but we don't always share it.

And so, you know, if, if there are other great things happening, which there are, I want-- I want people to know that. I want you to get the credit you deserve for doing that hard work. I want us to set an example, you know, for

other communities to follow.

I want the public to be able to look on the website and easily find here are the things, the other things that we're doing, so that they know these things are being addressed. Because unlike Doug or, or Mike or others who really eat, drink, and sleep this stuff, and who are really informed, there are a lot of people in the community who are concerned about these things, but they're not-- they're not in this up to their necks, you know.

They just wanna-- they wanna know what's happening, and we don't always communicate that stuff as well as we should. So, um, again, I thank everybody for, for, for their work on this. I know it took much longer than the 90 days, um, for various reasons, but we're getting there. And if we can just-- it's okay to make some of these folks uncomfortable, you know, that's okay. They'll survive, you know.

We, we gotta-- there is some balance there because, you know, you can't make it so uncomfortable that things don't get developed, um, but it's okay to push and it-- and it-- and it's okay to make them squirm a little bit. And so, um, I'm, I'm happy to, to support that if, if that's the way we go. So, thank you all very much. And Madam Chair, thank you

for leading this effort.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Councillor McGovern. Councillor Azeem has joined us. I'm not sure you had the benefit of the presentation, uh, which, Councillor Azeem, for your reference, it was just sent to us about, uh, 10 minutes into this meeting.

I'm not sure if you have questions now, obviously the full report is before us, the Climate Resiliency Zoning Task Force, if you have any questions or comments now, or you wanna wait.

COUNCILLOR BURHAN AZEEM: I've been reading through the presentation since I joined. Apologies for being late. No questions at this time. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you.

IRAM FAROOQ: Chair, may I add one thing just, um, to respond a little bit to some of the issues that have been raised?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Mm-hmm.

IRAM FAROOQ: So, I do think what Councillor McGovern said is, is actually one of the-- um, in terms of requirements versus incentives, I do wanna say that much of what is being proposed here would be requirements. There

would be requirements that-- for instance, looking at the, uh, the Cool Factor, there might be requirements that include a bunch of different ways to accomplish the requirements, but they actually would be requirements for meeting certain thresholds of performance.

So, we are absolutely-- I mean, this is a critical enough issue that there can't be a choice that it actually does have to happen. So, we are working from the perspective of, uh, of actually establishing requirements. The earlier question that-- I know Councillor Zondervan had expressed some, um, some concern about not actually seeing the-- what the actual interventions would be in terms of zoning.

And I think we, we can certainly-- for the, for the next discussion on this topic, uh, we can bring you-- we may not-- we most likely will not have, uh, zoning language at that time, but we could certainly bring a framework of what are the interventions that we are-- that we are thinking of, so that you could have-- the, the Committee could have a, a sense of here's what the actions are likely going to be and which-- where are we proposing changes and into what degree.

And then I, I also want to acknowledge and, um, and agree with Councillor McGovern's, um, call for better

storytelling because we certainly do need to-- I agree that we do need to, to do that. Um, and we are working to think through how to communicate better on, um, on a topic that is of this magnitude that touches so many things, so, so we hope that, you know, sometime we have a better strategy on the communication, um, because this is-- you're exactly right that when-- if we're-- if and when we're doing, um, cutting edge work, that we should make that model available in a very public way for, for other communities also to be able to embrace and for people in Cambridge to, to know the work that is being done, both by staff and, and Council, and community members.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Assistant City Manager, Farooq, and Councillor McGovern for your comments. I have a couple of comments and questions. One, I'd love to get the, the benefit of everyone reviewing this.

As Councillor McGovern said, many people in the community are not following this as assiduously and as passionately as we are. Um, we can talk about timing a little bit, but I am curious, my understanding has not yet been sent to the CPAC. It obviously should be.

They are charged with overseeing all of our climate

issues. So if we could make sure that happens soon and have them be able to weigh in and understand, because it was a surprise to me. As some of you know, I have a-- I know people on CPAC. For those of you who don't know, my husband in full disclosure is the Chair of the CPAC and has been serving on it for 15 years.

And he was surprised to hear this meeting and saying they hadn't yet received it. So, I hope that happen soon. I understand we only got it February 28th, but it'll be good to have the benefit of all the people in the City who have really been deep into this, and certainly their letter in response to the interaction plan was quite informative for the Council. So, I hope that can happen pretty soon.

In fact, I bet by the end of this meeting, Mr. Bolduc will already have sent it to the CPAC. I am curious on a specific on how does the flood resilience measures and what we're doing, interact with the fact that we are also trying to encourage housing, including in basement units and exempting basement area from FAR as a way of encouraging either expansion of, of units or even ADUs.

And I know Engineer Watkins mentioned that or referenced that, or, or, or maybe Ms. Scott referenced it

about acknowledging, you know, that basements also need to be resilient, but with basements being living space, and that's explicitly asking for new buildings, not only not to have their basements be living space, but their whole first floor. I'm just curious as to what the thoughts are and how that interacts with some other area of the City, which is we're trying to encourage housing, including in basement units.

IRAM FAROOQ: Thank you, Chair. So well, Kathy can start us off, and, and I think that Sarah and Jeff may have more to add on those zoning pieces as well.

KATHY WATKINS: Sure. So, Councillor, I mean, I think folks that followed the discussion, you know, several years ago when we had this initial conversation about basements, you know, staff expressed a lot of concerns about, um, you know, having, full units in the basements and really encouraging that really because of these issues.

So, I think if you ask me personally, what would I do, it might be different than what we're recommending here because as you mentioned, we're trying to balance a lot of different desires and needs in the City. So, you know, Sarah and Jeff can talk about the specific language, but the

overall approach and, you know, one that the Committee supported was to maintain, um, that allowance in terms of basement units, however, also make sure that those basement units are protected from flooding.

So what that could mean in that is some of the images that Sarah showed is that, you know, the window wells may have, you know, higher protection around them so that you're thinking about how does water get into the basement unit and saying that you need to have window well, so that that, um, that lower basement window doesn't become, you know, a giant, like a, um, mechanism from water to enter into that unit.

So, looking at making sure that those units are resilient and are protected from those flood events. And so again, it's trying to balance all these different needs and desires in the City. So, I hope that's helpful.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Did anyone else you add?

JEFF ROBERTS: Sure. This is Jeff. I would just, um, maybe underline the, the point that Kathy made that a lot of this Task Force discussion, and I think where the discussion was really helpful was in, in trying to figure out these issues of balance.

And like Kathy, I remember, you know, when this, this came to the City Council, I think about six years ago, I think Doug was also involved in, in that discussion of how our zoning should treat basements. And clearly, there was a desire, um, on the part of the community, from, from homeowners, from, um, people that wanted to make, you know, make better use of existing buildings to try to free up basements and make them more available for, for better use.

I think that many people see that as a-- as an important way to, to meet City goals and to meet the, the goals of, of homeowners and property owners without having to add height or, you know, and also to preserve open space on the lot. Those were all really important issues that were talked about back in, I think it was, you know, 2015, 2016.

Staff pointed out at the time, and, and this was discussed throughout the Task Force process that, that that does create a, a potential concern with, um, with future flood risk. And so, I think where--you know, the Task Force could have gone in a number of different directions with that discussion. They could have said, well, maybe we should go back and, you know, not have these zoning provisions at incentivize basement use.

Um, you know, they could have-- or they could have gone or they could have said, well, maybe we shouldn't worry about, about this at all. But I think they came around to saying it's clear that there's a desire to, to have this use take place within existing buildings and to have this flexibility, but at the same time, we need to incorporate, um-- we need to incorporate some, some protection, and we need to, to think about how we do that in a, in a reasonable way, which gives, you know, property owners and homeowners, um, enough flexibility, uh, to be able to, to make choices about what they do.

So that's, that's I think it's a good example of, of a part-- a part of the discussion that really weighed a lot of different pros and cons and, and tried to focus on those principles that Sarah described in, in the report and, and come to a conclusion that, um, tried to-- tried to achieve that balance.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. That's helpful. And of course, it may well be, we need to ensure a couple things. As that moves forward, there are different parts of the City that will be more vulnerable than others. You know, there's certainly where-- Mr. Brown lives is

different than where I live, even though we're only 10 blocks away, because I'm on a hill and he's right in the middle of some additional flood plains.

We know that in Cambridgeport, Engineer Watkins has worked hard to try to get the, um, the, the stormwater mitigation in place, and yet, that whole, you know, half of Cambridge is on basically built-up swamps. So it may be, as we move forward with this, I think we should bear that in mind, and in particular, ensure that anyone renting an apartment in that area understands the risks because we would be remiss in not figuring out a way to ensure that, that we communicate that.

And also, to homeowners, I don't know how flood insurance works, but there's all those complicating factors. I just thought it was really important to acknowledge that tension that we do want to encourage housing and yet we also recognize that the climate mitigation is quite important.

KATHY WATKINS: Councillor Nolan, can I just one additional thought just based on your comments?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yes.

KATHY WATKINS: So, one of the things that we've done, um, is with the flood viewer, and the, the strategies that

people need to do for their individual properties is really tied to the flood viewer. So, it's not to say there's the same strategy overall in the entire City, it really is very site specific based on the projected flooding in the City in 2070.

And so it is different depending on different areas of the City. And then we've also, um, you know, the flood viewer is available and we really encourage people to look at it both in terms of renters and homeowners. And you know, I think as Iram was talking about in terms of, you know, getting this information out there more, I think that would be something to also really think about is how to make that, um, have more people know that that's a resource that they can use to look at what the actual risks are in terms of flooding for specific locations.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right. Yeah. Well, I've looked at it as you can tell because I've used it, but you're right, it's, it's clearly something we wanna do. Another question is, on this question of the Cool Factor, I appreciated the chart, in particular looking at Cool and Green, and I know this was a long discussion. I think I may even have attended one of those meetings when this was being

discussed, why not have a Cool Green Factor? Why not include as many as possible, especially if we're being innovative?

IRAM FAROOQ: Kathy, you wanna start this?

KATHY WATKINS: Sure, I'll start. So Councillor Nolan, I mean I think when you look at it, we really have included all of the green elements that we think affect heated and cooling issues. And so, we really-- it is pretty comprehensive and I think the, you know, the chart that Sarah showed is that really all of the strategies are included except for, you know, the pervious asphalt, and then there's a, a water body one that, um, some other communities had included.

But those tended to be more sort of like a-- I think of them as more of a suburban, um, development where you might have you know, sort of a wetland water feature, but it's more sort of a suburban look, as opposed to something you would really see here in Cambridge. So in Cambridge, if you did, you know, um, green infrastructure, that would-- that would count in the Cool Factor.

I mean, we talked about sort of renaming it the Green Factor or the Cool Factor because it's really is there and it's just, you know, when we went through the process, it

was really highlighting the cooling element of it, and so that's why we sort of went with the Cool Factor. But it really is all of those green elements are incorporated into that-- into that scoring.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. And, and obviously, just for anyone who hasn't, you can look at the documents for the Climate Resiliency Zoning Task Force where I believe these discussions happen so that as this moves forward, if the Council says we do want to either rename it or incorporate it to make it clear that it is actually a Cool and a Green Factor, that's certainly something we can all look forward to and particularly look to.

As I've reviewed it a couple times, not as in depth as the team members, but um, certainly there's a lot there and we can move forward with, with different things that, uh, that the Task Force reviewed. I'm gonna-- I do wanna go back to that timing question because as we've heard, um, it is a long time incoming. Um, and, and, and given that this Task Force, my understanding from talking to a range of people, was that it actually was set up to come forward with zoning language, which we don't have before us.

And there was a, a delay that certainly I didn't

understand from the actual draft final report was April of last year, but we didn't get the report till February this year. So, I know you've all been working on it and I heard from Assistant City Manager, Farooq, that perhaps the next steps are you would come forward with very specific principles, but not the actual zoning language, if that's what I heard.

I just wanna understand what the approximate timing of that would be so that we can all look forward to, and as we peruse this report, all of us look at it to, to also get you some feedback, which I believe is what you might be seeking now to understand what it is, how we might wanna move forward.

So, I'm just trying to understand where the timing is and how it is that we might move forward with some specific concepts, and then that would then be translated into zoning language, which I'm, I'm wrestling with because I know what the impetus of this Task Force was actually zoning language.

IRAM FAROOQ: So, Chair, here's what we can do. I was not suggesting just principles, but more like what would be the intervention. So, for instance, we would look at such and such section of the Zoning Ordinance and make

modifications to account for this particular thing.

So, taking those principles that Sarah presented, and then bringing you information about what would be the zoning changes that we would need to make in order to achieve those principles. So that we can lay out that framework, I would need to consult both with our team here from CDD and DPW, but we have not--

I'm saying this in full disclosure because-- to everybody that we have not actually had any conversations with the Law Department about this. And because this is new, there will be legal issues that will certainly arise that they're, uh, going to need to grapple with and figure out what is doable and what is not.

So, I don't wanna give an estimate of how long that would take without having at least some consultation, uh, with the Solicitor on, on the scope. I mean, they've looked at the, the report the same as, as everybody else, but not actually, um, at what interventions might be, be needed.

So, we can get you-- we can have consultation at staff level and get you some more information, um, on, on that so that we can figure out what is the appropriate time horizon for that for the next meeting and when we can get you, uh,

some recommend-- you know, the actual recommendation. So, we'll, we'll-- I can't give you an answer just yet on the floor, but we can certainly get you that information on those estimates following up.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. That would be helpful. And, and I would think what you would also want back from those of us who are listening to this is a sense of here are the kinds of things that we may want to make sure were included.

For instance, when I mentioned the Cool or Green, it maybe we should-- I think there's a minimum cool, but not a minimum green. Like maybe that's the kind of thing that, that would be good feedback to you on some of, uh, the report as drafted as we move forward. So, it sounds like you--

And we certainly want to make sure that the Law Department has a chance to review this because if we all spend a lot of time developing something that ends up being something that we're not comfortable moving forward with, we don't want you to do that and we don't want us to do that. So that's very much understood.

One more overarching question, and then I'll go back

to-- go around again to Councillors, starting with Councillor Zondervan. It was mentioned at the beginning that the original zoning petition included, I don't know, 40 different things and 12 different areas and that the Task Force focused on a subset of those. Where does that other work live since the entire zoning petition, as I understand it was referred to?

Is there other work that lives in other areas of this development? We now have the Interaction Plan, we have the, the work the Climate Crisis Working Group did, we have so much other work going on, we have the, the DPW work on the various water related infrastructure. Is that other work living somewhere, or is it something that we might wanna revisit and make sure that if there's elements of it that we wanna address in the future, that that gets addressed? If that makes sense as a question.

IRAM FAROOQ: It does, Chair. I don't offhand have the information on all of those elements. So I'm gonna say, if I could turn it over to, to Jeff and see if he has a sense of what was not adopted-- I mean, what was not-- what is not included in this suite of recommendations, because some of them might be because as you started to consider, um, the

impacts that we wanted to make or how we wanted to address our, our actual climate change impacts in Cambridge that are anticipated, that there are certain things might have moved out because they were not impacting those, um, the climate change anticipated impacts. But some of them may be put to the side, and I don't recollect what those are. And Doug might have a better sense of those as well. So, I guess I will turn it over to, to Jeff and to Doug if he is still here.

JEFF ROBERTS: Thanks, Iram. I think just to-- just to start with, I would just emphasize what the point you made before that this-- the, the charge of this Task Force from the beginning was to address resilience specifically and to - and to look at the impacts of, um, increased flooding and, and extreme heat.

We really tried to avoid, you know, what might be described as mission creep of trying to, you know, kind of then extend into other, um, other issues. There are lots of robust planning efforts going on in, you know, within our department and, and around the City on climate change mitigation, and rehouse gas emissions, and many other things, some of which we're talking about, you know, later

this week or next week.

So, that's one point. The other point just in-- I wouldn't necessarily characterize the work of the Task Force as sort of saying, well, here are things we're gonna put in and here are things we're gonna leave out. I think we, we tried to look at each of those issues and come to a point at which the Task Force Members as a whole felt there was an appropriate balance between, um, requirement and flexibility.

So, for example, a lot of the approaches that were, um, embraced by the Task Force were, you know, performance-based approaches. So, on the heat, um, piece of things, the, the Cool Factor or Green-- you know, Cool or Green Factor, however you wanna call it, you know, really the, the approach is meant to be, um, a performance-based approach and not to be something that was sort of overly prescriptive.

So, you know, there was discussion about things like, you know, should we-- should we mandate specific things or specific interventions more prescriptively as part of heat mitigation? And then ultimately, the Task Force kind of ended up in a place of, of suggesting that, you know, that

really the-- if the performance approach and, and the flexibility is what we wanna preserve, we should really go fully with a performance-based approach, and not have too many sort of different kind of things, things mixed in that, that overly complicate it.

So that, that's just an example. I think another thing I'll-- one thing I'll point out, because this did come up a few times in, in the meeting and, and again, I think we're talking about this, uh, again a little bit later, um, was the issue of parking. Um, and some members of the Task Force said, you know, there's a lot of intersection between our policies related to parking and how that impacts, um, you know, both, you know, flood and, and heat resilience.

And I think what we said was, you know, that was a discussion that really goes beyond just the, the specific focus of this group and the expertise that we had within that Task Force and really would involve bringing in a lot more discussion involving, involving a lot more issues and pulling in a lot of different issues.

So ultimately, that was something that went into the, the kind of future study piece of the report, rather than something that the, um, Task Force made specific

recommendations on. So, so those are a couple examples of, of kind of where the, or how the Task Force kind of centered around the, uh, recommendations that are in the report.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yeah. That's helpful. Thank you. I can go around to Councillor Zondervan.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thanks, Madam Chair. Through you, I will, uh, send you and the Clerk a motion shortly that hopefully captures some of what we're asking for. Um, but I, I do wanna just remind everyone of the urgency here because, you know, we, we talk a lot about urgency when it comes to climate mitigation, and, and that's, in some ways, more obvious to people.

But you know, the, the climate crisis is here and, and we've been talking about it for at least a couple of decades. And back when I first joined CPAC in 2008, I started advocating for climate adaptation as we called it then. And now we call it resilience, but I think it's mostly the same thing.

And, you know, we're still kind of-- we're not there, you know, and we're still having conversations about how do we communicate this and how do we turn this into requirements? And, and that's concerning to me because the

climate is changing, it seems, more rapidly than we are, and, and we need to address that.

So, I really, as always, appreciate all the work that's being done. I think it's great, and, and Cambridge, as usual as, as a leader on this issue, but unfortunately, we still have to do even more. So, um, I'm gonna send a motion to the Clerk, Madam Chair, and, and we can discuss that.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. Right before you do that, I wanna ask one more question related to this timing issue and the work of the Task Force, because if I'm remembering the, the report correctly, the, the Cool Factor in many of this applies only when a new building is being built and not alterations.

And there was interest among the Task Force to apply the factor in all instances. Um, and it, it-- what I gleaned was that either gleaned or it was stated explicitly that the City needed to conduct additional research before requiring this of alterations in a smaller buildings.

So, I'm curious since the, the-- again, the final draft was actually issued in April of last year, whether the City has done research along that, because as Councillor Zondervan just said, this shouldn't only apply to only new

buildings, it has to be alterations.

And as Mr. Bolduc has reminded us, of all the buildings in the City, most of them are still gonna be here in the next 10 years. So, we really need to address them as well. So has there been work done on that? And if not, will it be done soon to understand how we-- whether we can apply it to more buildings, I guess is the question.

IRAM FAROOQ: Chair, I'm gonna turn this over to, um, Jeff to start us off, and then Kathy might want to add, but-- Okay, I won't even try to, to do an-- to say anything before. I'll just turn it over to Jeff.

JEFF ROBERTS: Thanks, Iram. I'll try not to go, go down too, too deep sort of a zoning rabbit hole with this, but I think as we-- as we look at applying standards, you know, like the ones that are-- that are recommended, you know, we start by looking at how do we integrate that in with the review procedures and the development requirements that we currently have in place.

So in, in most cases, I think where the-- where we started with, with the Task Force was how do we supplement the, the current, um, kind of threshold design standards that kick in with development of 25,000 square feet or more,

and kind of aligning with our, our green building requirements.

When it-- when it came to, um, alterations, so for, for instance, with, um, you know, going, going into the Cool Factor, you know, new development, that would be a standard that applies, um, alongside our green building requirements, um, for alterations of buildings.

The, um, the, the standard or the, the, the target that was, um, recommended, you know, after some discussion by the Task Force was that, you know, if, if the building footprint is essentially sort of being unchanged, then, um, the, the Cool Factor should be, um, you know-- should, should meet a, a target of, um, you know, not being, uh, reduced, basically.

If you have an existing condition that maybe the-- maybe the Cool Factor threshold isn't being met, and the work that's being done on the site isn't that significant, uh, isn't significant enough that it constitutes a total redevelopment of the site, then, um, then, you know, not-- at the very least, not having any reduction or, or detriment to the, to the Cool Factor score would, would be the appropriate way to go.

I think where we need to do a little bit more discussion is, you know, where else, you know, beyond those, um, larger scale development review, um, cases, is it appropriate to incorporate these standards? So for instance, you know, smaller, new construction, smaller alterations.

And again, they're the-- you know, as, as we kind of worked our way down, Task Force Members, you know, in many cases coming from, from sort of homeowners, expressing concerns about, you know, once you get into smaller, um, properties and smaller scale, you know, development projects, like, you know, small additions or alterations, you know, how appropriate is it to apply a, you know, complicated set of standards that, you know, might be, you know, not just difficult to meet but might, um, you know, create additional, additional hurdles, um, or additional barriers for, for people that are, you know, trying to do sort of reasonable things to, to, um, to, you know, make better, you know, better use of their, of their land.

So that, that is the-- that's the part that we still, I think, need to work through a little bit to figure out. And I think the Task Force felt that it wasn't-- as you get into small scale alterations, it could be something that's

implemented, maybe on an advisory basis to start with until we learn more about it and what kinds of impacts it might have before making it a, um, a stricter requirement. Those are all things that we'll be talking about as we-- as we get into the nitty-gritty of the, the zoning details.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you for that explanation. Everybody needs to do it is my view. We can't not have this be done. You know, when you do a major renovation in your house, you need to upgrade to the fire code, you need to upgrade to the CO2, you need to meet zoning.

So personally, I think as we know, if it's an-- if it's a true emergency, we really should be looking at everything possible. And we are talking mitigation, we're talking about avoiding flooding, we're talking about doing everything we can for resiliency in a crisis. So, I hope that, that we can work towards, um, understanding whatever we need to do to get there.

Um, I do know that Councillor Zondervan, we have about 15 more minutes that Councillor Zondervan has a motion he wants to present, and Councillor Carlone put his hand up. So, I'll call on Councillor Carlone and then when Councillor

Zondervan is ready.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be very quick. You know, the ADA requires meeting the code if your improvements are more than, I believe it is 50% of the value of the property. Um, it could be some evaluation like that. Um, granted if it's an old building, it could very well easily be 50% any improvements, but nevertheless, publicly accessible buildings, even if it's small, could, could qualify as well. So, there are ways of looking at how we do it in, in other cases and learning from that. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right. And again, we're talking about things that are in the middle of an emergency that we're trying to prevent people from having their building actually be worth less because they're not resilient. So that's the other side of it. Councillor Zondervan, you had your hand up.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. And, and to the point you just made, you know, I don't understand how we make basements in low-lying areas resilient flooding. So, it's a little distressing that here, you know, that as a strategy-- I mean, maybe it's possible

and I just don't know about it, but if it is, we, we really need to communicate that because to, to my mind, and I expect a lot of people, it doesn't-- it doesn't make any sense. I did send the motion to you, Madam Chair, and to the Clerk.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Do you wanna read it, Councillor Zondervan?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Sure. Ordered that the City Manager is requested to work with CDD, CDW, the Law Department, the Public Information Office, and other relevant departments to present a zoning framework and a communication plan, as well as a list of items not being considered through zoning with regards to climate resilience planning, as soon as possible.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. Any discussion? And this would be then presented to the Council, or back to this Committee? Or how is that you envision this moving forward? I agree with it. We need to ask for very explicit plans, but I'm curious as to whether we would be thinking--

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you and to you, I would-- I mean, the motion

ultimately has to go back to the Council to be voted on.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: And then the Manager can respond on the Manager's Agenda, and we can refer the response back to this Committee or place it on file and call another meeting, um, so, you know, all those options remain. But I would recommend that we keep the report itself in, in Committee and, and discuss it again once we get a response to this order.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yeah. Great. Thank you. And we can certainly keep it in Committee and have the zoning framework if it's done soon, you know, as soon as possible. Um, any discussion, Committee Members, on this? Or any response? Assistant City Manager, Farooq, does this make sense to you? And do you need more specific timing? As soon as possible could be viewed as tomorrow or it could be viewed as so vague that possible maybe six months from now. I'm not sure if we wanna specify more.

IRAM FAROOQ: This is fine, Chair. We will not delay, we'll get it as soon as we can.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: And Engineer Watkins, since you are from DPW, not CDD, any--

KATHY WATKINS: No, I think that's fine. Thanks for checking them.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. And is that your right title, Engineer Watkins? Or should I just say--

KATHY WATKINS: It's officially Assistant Commissioner for Engineering/City Engineer, so Engineer is fine. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. All right. I don't see any hands up, so that means we would be voting on this motion that would be then moved forward and forwarded to the full City Council. Clerk Wilson, roll call.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: On the motion;

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Yes - 5, No - 0, Absent-0. Motion Passed.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: All right. I'm not sure if any others want to weigh in. We have a few minutes left if we do. I think what I'm hearing and understanding is the

City staff wants to move forward with this. They are already working together, given that we have the Law Department, NCDD, and DPW on this call.

Certainly, I appreciate also Co-Chair, Brown, for staying with this meeting and for being involved in this process from the very beginning. As was pointed out, it is now closing on five years since the Zoning Petition was first promulgated and then transferred into this.

We are all working very hard, and the message is, let's get this to a zoning framework and zoning language as soon as we can so that we can put this in place. And while some of this work is already in place, those, those standards on flooding resilience are already being used, um, that we really want, uh, this to be translated into something that will give specificity and also clarity as we talked about.

There's a range of people who deserve to know what is, uh, being expected. I also wanna appreciate Councillor Carlone's expertise in this, and certainly echo what he said about this is the time for us to also, if there's ways that we can ensure resilience should be broadly defined.

And if it-- if the way people are building is, is not as resilient as possible, given the, the one specific of

glass, we should be paying attention to that. We need to have a, a more comprehensive and holistic approach to ensuring that all of our goals are being met as much as possible in a process that is not siloed, but that is brought together.

And I know that's really challenging, but I know we're up to the task. So, I'm, I'm looking forward to having to continue in the conversation. Unless there's others who want to weigh in on this, I think we could move to adjourn.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: On that motion;

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Yes

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Yes - 5, No - 0, Absent-0. Motion Passed.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you all. Happy March. Happy cold March, and we'll see you whenever we reconvene on this.

DOUG BROWN: Thank you. And I just wanted to say thank you to the Council for supporting these efforts.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: We are happy to do it.

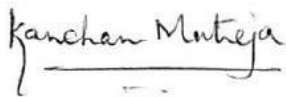
Thanks for spraying them on, Mr. Brown, seriously.

**The Cambridge City Council Health & Environment
Committee adjourned at approximately 12:55 PM.**

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, **Kanchan Mutreja**, a transcriber for Datagain, do hereby certify: That said proceedings were listened to and transcribed by me and were prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment under my direction and supervision; and I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript to the best of my ability.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this 4th day of March 2023.



Signature of Transcriber

A communication was received from Community Development, transmitting a presentation for the Health and Environment Committee meeting on March 29, 2022.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Mar 29, 2022 11:00 AM (Committee Reports)