



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

1:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Health and Environment Committee will conduct a public meeting to discuss how the City can act on the recently passed Massachusetts climate bill, including specifically how the City can implement a ban or restriction on fossil fuels in new construction projects as part of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources 10 city pilot program and how quickly the city can adopt the state’s newly promulgated energy stretch code for buildings

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 type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council’s Health and Environment Committee was held on Wednesday November 16, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 1:00p.m. by the Chair, Councillor Nolan. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2022 adopted by the Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, the public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation. This public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

At the request of the Chair, Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

- Councillor Azeem – Absent**
- Councillor Carlone – Present/In Sullivan Chamber**
- Councillor McGovern – Present/Remote**
- Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber**
- Councillor Zondervan – Present/Remote**
- Present – 4, Absent – 1. Quorum established.**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan offered opening remarks and noted that the call of the meeting was to discuss how the City can act on the recently passed Massachusetts climate bill, including specifically how the City can implement a ban or restriction on fossil fuels in new construction projects as part of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources 10 city pilot program and how quickly the City can adopt the state’s newly promulgated energy stretch code for buildings. Councillor Nolan noted that Iram Farooq, Assistant City Manager for the Community Development Department (CDD) was present and joined by Susanne Rasmussen, Director of Environmental and Transportation Planning and Seth Federspiel, Climate Program Manager. Assistant City Solicitor, Megan Bayer, was also present at the meeting.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Nov 16, 2022 1:00 PM (Committee Reports)

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Seth Federspiel who gave a presentation titled “City of Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan, Net Zero New Construction and State Policy Update” which was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet. The presentation reviewed the Net Zero Action Plan New Construction background, the Stretch Code and Specialized Net Zero Code, and the Fossil Fuel Free Demonstration project. After the presentation, staff from CDD were available to respond to questions and concerns from Councillors.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Megan Bayer who provided additional information that came from the Director of the Energy Efficiency Division at the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), noting that draft regulations for fossil fuel free will be implemented at the same time the new stretch code is published with the hopes to have a standardized approach communities can use for fossil fuel free. Megan Bayer also shared that there may be some tweaks within the code that will help benefit communities who wish to implement it.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan opened Public Comment.

Margery Davies congratulated the Council on submitting the Home Rule Petition with State Representative Michael Connolly’s help which guaranteed a space for the City in the pilot program for fossil fuel free construction.

Patrick Barrett, 41 Pleasant Street, Cambridge, MA, offered comments and concerns on gas bans and the negative effects on property and business owners.

Fred Hadley offered comments and questions regarding fossil fuel free construction and the stretch code.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Zondervan who thanked CDD and State Representative Michael Connolly for working with the City to help move forward with a Net Zero Action Plan. Councillor Zondervan shared that it would be beneficial for DOER to have model language to help Cities and Towns follow when pushing towards fossil fuel free construction. Councillor Zondervan offered suggestions on how the Council should move forward with fossil fuel free and the specialized stretch code, whether it be through zoning or Ordinance. Megan Bayer offered comments on how the City can move forward based on legislation and discussions with DOER, and noted that whether the Council should create zoning language or Ordinance is something the Law Department would have to look into.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Carlone who thanked CDD for their excellent presentation. Councillor Carlone asked if it was 30% or 50% of the building value that would be required to be fossil fuel free. Iram Farooq noted that they believe it would be 30%. Megan Bayer shared that it would be something to confirm with the Inspectional Service Department (ISD). Councillor Carlone shared that he would like to see existing buildings working towards fossil fuel free as well as new construction.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor McGovern who had a follow up question from public comment on how unintended consequences might exist in the business community,

especially restaurants and what ways the City will be working with property/business owners to help them move towards fossil fuel free in a way that will not negatively affect their business. Iram Farooq shared that now that there is more information around fossil fuel free from the State, they plan on reaching out to the business community. Councillor McGovern stressed the importance of reaching out to the community moving forward.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Toner who shared concerns about fossil fuel free affecting the business and restaurant community and noted the importance of starting the application process to move forward. Councillor Nolan reminded Councillor Toner that Cambridge has a guaranteed spot that has been confirmed by DOER through a letter sent by Mayor Siddiqui and the City Manager. Susanne Rasmussen noted that community outreach would be in early January. Iram Farooq shared that CDD plans to reach out to a broad spectrum of the community, not just business and restaurant owners, and the department will be available to answer any questions or concerns they may have.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan also stressed the importance of communication within the community so there is no confusion or misinformation. Councillor Nolan noted that even though legislation may not pass until the end of the year, she encourages CDD to start conducting community outreach now since conversations about fossil fuel free and the stretch code have been in discussion for some time within the Council and the City. Councillor Nolan offered suggestions on how CDD can move forward with outreach and problem solving. Councillor Nolan shared that it's important to reach out to residents as well because this will not just affect large buildings in Cambridge, but all properties, including smaller resident buildings. Susanne Rasmussen responded by sharing that CDD can work on a list that will identify smaller buildings and noted that right now the focus is on new construction and major renovation and will make sure to include that when conducting community outreach.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Carlone who asked if the standards would change regarding labs and the BEUDO 2030 deadline and if there have been any discussions around BEUDO, fossil fuel free, and the specialized stretch code. Seth Federspeil noted that labs are included in the stretch code and the specialized stretch code, with the state planning to add updates, and noted that labs would have a goal of 2030.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan offered closing remarks and asked CDD what would be helpful from the Committee to help move this forward. Iram Farooq noted that she and her department are committed to working on all the questions and concerns that have been brought forward from Councillors.

The Chair, Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Carlone who made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Deputy City Clerk Crane called the roll.

Councillor Azeem – Absent

Councillor Carlone – Yes

Councillor McGovern – Yes

Councillor Nolan – Yes

Councillor Zondervan – Absent

Yes – 3, No – 0, Absent – 2. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:20p.m.

Clerk’s Note: The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. This is a permanent record. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

https://cambridgema.granicus.com/player/clip/356?view_id=1&redirect=true&h=386d97542abef170e137700b042c8889

A communication was received from Assistant City Manager/Community Development Iram Farooq, transmitting Net Zero New Construction and State Policy Update.