

## **DRAFT MINUTES, Article 36 Task Force, 01/27/22**

The task force met for its regular public session in person at Tracy Hall and on Zoom. The meeting was held for the sole purpose of reviewing and modifying a draft task force report to the Selectboard. The agenda with the working draft report attached was published more than a week before the meeting to give the public opportunity to comment, and the draft was mentioned at the previous week's Selectboard meeting.

All task force members were in attendance, along with public members Pamela Smith, Linda Cook and Geoff Martin, who is the regional energy coordinator.

The draft was principally written by Aaron Lamperti based on an earlier public draft by Jack Cushman.

The task force operates by consensus and all changes to the draft were approved by full consensus. Lamperti agreed to incorporate the changes into a final draft to be considered and possibly approved at a special meeting in order to meet Selectboard requests for a complete final report and recommendations.

Cushman suggested that a table in the draft be reconfigured to report actual consumption (gallons) of fossil fuels alongside emissions (metric tonnes) of greenhouse gases. The two measures are interchangeable but Article 36 limits consumption rather than emissions for the sake of simplicity. As we have the data in hand this change is easily accomplished. Captions etc. will be adjusted accordingly.

Cushman suggested that a recommendation be firmed up to clarify that the Task Force urges the town not to install a new fossil fuel boiler system to heat Tracy Hall if the existing boiler must be replaced soon. The boiler is the single largest point source of greenhouse gas emissions in the town. Ciccotelli spoke up to say he agreed; other members agreed by consensus.

Members of the task force and the public asked about data that appeared to suggest that many vehicles in the town fleet have identical shares of greenhouse gas emissions. Task force members explained that for some classes of vehicles there is no vehicle by vehicle data in hand so emissions were arbitrarily split evenly among the vehicles. The data will be annotated to make clear that these are not actual emissions estimates per vehicle. Among the recommendations of the report is to collect data in the future on a vehicle by vehicle basis to aid in decision making about replacing fossil fuel vehicles with low or no-emissions vehicles.

Gere recommended that the report include language emphasizing that there is a "climate emergency" using those words, as the town is on course to build a climate emergency response fund. Lamperti and Cushman noted that the Selectboard has previously voted to recognize the extent of the climate crisis and Cushman said he would draft language for the report to better reflect the extent of the emergency.

Cushman also agreed with the consensus that the report should incorporate some of the historical context and scientific evidence requiring urgent action, as was included in the task force's August 2021 interim work plan report to the Selectboard.

Lamperti agreed to make these and all other minor consensus adjustments to the report, which will be posted along with agenda for the next meeting.

There were no substantive suggestions for modifications from members of the public, and the committee agreed to find a time for a special meeting as soon as possible to allow completion of the report in early February.

Draft minutes submitted by Jack Cushman