
**TOWN OF CARRBORO
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD – SUMMARY**



Meeting on August 22, 2019, 7:00 pm, Town Hall Room 109

Board Members	Guests	Board of Aldermen Liaison
Tim Turner (Chair)	Olive Russell	Sammy Slade
Sonia Desai (Vice-Chair)	Ben Klinger	Staff
Lyndsay Gavin	Steve Hall	Laura Janway
Bruce Sinclair	Barb Stenross	
Jeanette O'Connor	Chrissie Schalkoff	
Kathy Kaufman	Steven Feuerstein	
Keith Barnhouse	Josh Levenson	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Tim Turner.

Approval of Minutes – July 24, 2019 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes for the July 24, 2019 meeting was made by Kaufman and seconded by O'Connor. Turner, Gavin, Sinclair, O'Connor, Kaufman, and Barnhouse voted in favor of approval. Desai voted against approving the minutes, stating that the minutes needed to include additional information.

Discussion Items

Chair Turner summarized the work of the Board members on the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) thus far and requested an update on the memo to staff to request the Town start a process to amend the Land Use Ordinance (LUO) to add Electric Vehicle Readiness requirements. Staff will follow-up on this request.

EAB Members discussed options for moving forward with CCAP implementation. Members discussed forming a separate climate action advisory board or meeting more often. Kaufman made a motion to add a draft recommendation to the agenda for the 9/5/19 meeting to recommend the creation of a separate climate action advisory board to the Board of Aldermen, seconded by O'Connor. Kaufman, O'Connor, Sinclair, Turner, Gavin, and Barnhouse voted in favor of the motion. Desai voted against the motion, stating that she would like the EAB to meet more often.

Board of Aldermen 6/25/19 Climate Resolution – Review Carbon Reduction Goals

EAB Members discussed the Resolution Regarding Climate Action Goals and Budget Plan passed by the Board of Aldermen on 6/25/19. The Resolution charged staff to work with the EAB to review the carbon reduction goals in the Energy and Climate Protection Plan (ECP) and CCAP, and for both staff and the EAB to recommend changes as may be needed to achieve goals defined in the 2009 climate resolution, recognizing the latest science and historical responsibilities for climate change.

Staff member Janway presented a summary of scientific information and emissions reduction goals of other municipalities. EAB members discussed options for municipal and community goals, as well as climate justice and options such as carbon offsets. Guest Hall discussed provisions for protecting climate change research. He stated that Duke Forest is very concerned about the development in Meadow Flats and potential impacts to research being conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He stressed the importance of this long-term research, as researchers are studying the global effects of climate change as well as how trees and ecosystems adapt to climate change.

EAB members discussed clarifying definitions for common terms such as “clean energy.” Guest Levenson mentioned that the Town should have a metric on how to analyze what to prioritize and that in terms of buying carbon offsets, it is important to know more specifics about the projects and their efficiency. Desai motion to put this topic on the agenda for the 9/5/19 meeting, seconded by Kaufman. All members voted in favor.

Alderman Slade mentioned the need for staff to provide EAB members with a timeline for input on CCAP budget recommendations.

Joint Review – Conditional Use Permit for Kentfield Subdivision at 905 & 921 Homestead Road

The Joint Review scheduled for 8/22/19 was cancelled.

Discussion Items Continued - Community Climate Action Plan: EAB Prioritization of Recommendations

EAB members continued their prioritization of recommendations from the 6/19/19 meeting. Desai began by summarizing Ecosystem Recommendation #4: Tree Preservation, Protection and Conservation. Desai mentioned using tools such as the Natural Heritage Program Data Explorer and the Green Growth Toolbox for recommendations made by the EAB. Desai stated that the EAB could take an immediate action to draft a recommendation to make sure there is an understanding of the carbon capture on potential development sites, and that the EAB or developers should be explicitly required to use specific analysis tools before making comments or submitting applications to the Town.

Guest Hall mentioned the biodiversity crisis and that the EAB should consider what could be done in Carrboro to slow the loss of species, such as developing a biodiversity protection plan to go along with CCAP, using local resources such as the Natural Heritage program and retired professors. Sinclair suggested that these ideas are written in the recommendations from the EAB regarding the CCAP. Alderman Slade asked about creating thresholds for biodiversity and carbon capture.

Members discussed the Town’s Joint Planning Agreement and Rural Buffer. Guest Hall mentioned exploring the possibility of working with the county to exchange land in the Rural Buffer to protect properties with high ecological value, such as properties along Eubanks Road.

Desai motioned for the EAB to pass a resolution to add additional environmental review requirements for developers to the Town’s Land Use Ordinance. Chair Turner ruled the motion out of scope. Sinclair moved to table the discussion for a future agenda, seconded by Gavin. Turner, Gavin, Sinclair, O’Connor, Kaufman, and Barnhouse voted to table the discussion. Desai voted against the motion, as she was in favor of continuing the current discussion.

Sinclair next introduced his specific ideas for solar goals for the Town. He mentioned performing an inventory of municipally-owned buildings for energy efficiency improvements. Alderman Slade mentioned that this was in progress and Town staff will prioritize these projects. Sinclair next mentioned that the Town should determine a specific budget to implement these projects each fiscal year.

Guest Stenross introduced her ideas for treating invasive species in Carrboro and addressing CCAP Ecosystem Recommendation #5. She stated that temperate forests are ranked at #12 in the list of solutions to reverse climate change by the book *Drawdown* by Paul Hawken. Stenross discussed the importance of trees to pollinators and other species. She discussed designing an education and awareness campaign to encourage residents to leave leaves on the ground in their yards, as well as educating Town Staff about treating invasive species on Town properties.

Stenross introduced additional ideas to add features on native plants to the Town website, observing Earth Day, creating informational brochures, and creating a Climate Friendly Habitat Program. Guest Feuerstein discussed his work to initiate a volunteer effort to treat invasive species on Town properties. He discussed his meeting with Mayor Lavelle and Town Staff. Staff member Janway discussed progress on organizing the initiative. Members expressed interest in participating and guest Levenson discussed locations where invasive species are prevalent. Guest Klinger stated that his Boy Scout Troop may be interested in participating in volunteer events and treating invasive species could be a potential topic for Eagle Scout projects.

Guest Schalkoff introduced her draft section for the CCAP on environmental justice. She provided information regarding the history of environmental justice, program implementation principles, equitable outcomes, and ensuring an open, equitable, transparent process. Schalkoff also discussed the use of mapping tools and community-based participatory research. Alderman Slade encouraged the use of these tools when updating the plan. Desai mentioned that the location of informational meetings is important topic to consider as well.

Gavin introduced her summary of options for the CCAP Transportation Recommendations, including improving van/carpool options, promoting walking and biking use, as well as applying for a grant from the Triangle Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program. Gavin discussed the Safe Routes to Schools Grant through the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools (CHCCS) as well as extending transit service. Members also discussed the bike plan update, and the Town's application for gold level status through the League of American Cyclists' Bicycle Friendly Communities program

Gavin next introduced her ideas for the CCAP Food Choice Recommendations and using local data as well as behavioral information about motivations for food choices.

Discussion of Potential Community Climate Action Plan Outreach Efforts on 9/21/19

EAB members briefly discussed potential CCAP outreach on September 21st and decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Sinclair and seconded by Kaufman, with all members voting in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm. The next meeting will be on September 5, 2019.