

Planning & Development Committee meeting, November 5, 2020

Committee members: Councillor Heather Shand (Ward 3, Chair), Councillor Christine Wallace (Ward 4), Councillor Jim McCauley (Ward 5), Councillor Barry Connell (At-large)

Attendees: Andy Port (Planning Director), Jon-Eric White (City Engineer), Julie Godtfredsen (Conservation Administrator), Molly Ettenborough (Recycling and Energy Manager), David Chatfield (Resiliency Committee Co-Chair)

Agenda

Approval of meeting minutes from October 22

-ODNC054_03_09_2020 Enforcement of the State Building Code

-COMM277_10_26_2020 Climate Resiliency Plan

Meeting opened at 6:00pm

Committee voted to approve the meeting minutes for October 22, 3-0

ODNC054_03_09_2020 Enforcement of the State Building Code. Councillors discussed the ordinance that clarifies the city building code to align with the MGL chapter 143. The updates to the verbiage clarifies what the city building inspector can use for direction on State building code, Historical Preservation and Commonwealth Buildings. The update clarifies local code to avoid confusion between the planning department and the building department and to follow both the zoning and the state building codes. Committee voted 3-0 to approve.

COMM277_10_26_2020 Climate Resiliency Plan

Molly Ettenborough, City Recycling and Energy Manager discussed the 5 year charge the committee had in writing the city's Climate Resiliency Plan. She discussed the four strategic areas the city identified as critical to the city; Infrastructure Installations/Improvements, Regulatory and Administrative Approaches, Community Communication and Education and Mitigation through Carbon Footprint Reductions.

David Chatfield, co-chair of the committee, asked the committee and council to read the document and use it as a guide for future zoning with storm surge in mind.

Councillor Wallace asked how public meetings would be held. Molly stated at their next sustainability committee meeting, they would discuss public outreach and education.

Councillor Connell, resiliency committee member, discussed how the plan used research based on the response to Hurricane Sandy. He spoke to long term protective measures the city needs to consider for water, sewer and electrical infrastructure. He recommended ways the council should utilize the guide when considering how we allocate funding and how climate resiliency should be a consideration. Concerned about the water supply and downriver CSO's

Councillor McCauley asked how the plan was going to be operationalized. Molly discussed the usage of the master plan and applying H/M/L priorities based on the resiliency plan.

William Clay (public) asked questions regarding the different implications homeowners have to consider, planning for flood plans and property values in the city, and how the report doesn't necessarily address that topic.

Jon-Eric White (city engineer) requested council consider using other communities guidelines and pass an ordinance that would require all developments in the city require a resiliency review.

Julie Gotfredsen (Conservation Administrator) spoke to how the conservation committee has already adopted policies to assure any applicant who needs conservation Commission approval must comply with future flood plan requirements based on 2070 NOAA and SLR (sea level rise) – 40"

Molly ended the conversation with the plan to discuss how they'll work on an education plan for the community, using social media as a start, in their next committee meeting

The committee voted to receive and file the communication, 3-0