

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
January 4, 2018**

**Attendees:** Council members: Lynn Rothman, Brian Hillard, John Brunner, Jack Gambino, Kathy Fox. Also in attendance: Martha Christine from Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife and Katrina Prutzman.

Meeting called to order shortly after 7pm.

The meeting started with other members welcoming Kathy Fox as an official member of the EAC. Welcome Kathy!

Lynn Rothman mentioned the Climate Justice speech on February 6 and EAC conference on April 14, and invited others to attend if possible.

**Approval of December Minutes:** minutes for December were not available for the January meeting.

**Committee Reports:** no other committee reports.

**Climate Action Plan:**

In December's meeting it was agreed that each of the mayoral agreements would be reviewed by an EAC member.

Kathy reviewed the US Mayors Protection Agreement, what the city achieved, and where they fell short. The agreement in principle has aspirational goals, but the tri-city goal was for a 20% reduction in energy use. Bethlehem was able to reduce municipal emissions by 23%. There are several items that were questioned whether completion was achieved, and we should follow up to ascertain if the initiatives are still followed. Kathy also provided Alliance for Sustainable Communities' recommendations to the city previously, in 2006.

Lynn noted that the March meeting will have Michael Alkhal, Director of Public Works, in attendance to address the municipal green house gas inventory.

Lynn also reported on the Compact of Mayors / Global Covenant of Mayors. This agreement carries the most significant requirements. With this agreement, the City is required to accomplish several steps: conduct a community-wide emissions inventory; set reduction goals; and establish a strategic plan to meet those goals. The next step is to conduct a community-wide emissions inventory. Brian will consult a colleague who chairs the Climate Action Team of Ferguson Township, as well as ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), on the requirements of the Clearpath software for conducting a community-scale inventory. Following that, we will assess the

requirements of this program and ascertain the feasibility of accomplishing this on our own.

Brian reported on the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda (MNCAA). MNCAA was a symbolic agreement of cities to show support for the Paris agreement in the absence of federal support.

Jack reported on We Are Still In; this was also a symbolic agreement allowing a wider audience to show support for the Paris agreement.

John reported on Ready for 100 - The Sierra Club's initiative for cities to go to 100% renewable energy. The city already purchases 50% of theirs from renewables. The timeline is by 2050, and there are different levels of commitment: while some cities may commit 100% of municipal operations, others may strive for community wide by-in.

How do we move forward?

Brian suggested targeting each of the Phase I goals given at the Dec. 13 Committee Meeting of the Whole - assessing the city inventory and establishing what future reductions could be met; Seeing what the Green Bethlehem Initiative requires; and follow through with the mayoral agreements. Other EAC members were focused on how we can continue to integrate sectoral assessments and initiatives into the planning process. It was decided that we could take one sector topic for a Climate Action Plan, for example energy or transportation, per meeting, and invite others from the community to contribute. Following that, an outline could be formed to assess of what we could try to accomplish, in order to recommend an action plan to a consultant.

The conversation included the need for university support for CAP actions.

After discussion, EAC members concluded on a framework for future planning:

#### Inventory Assessment

Both municipal and community inventories must be considered in order to strategize future planning. Mike Alkhal's inventory in March will provide us with a baseline where city energy use is, and possibly highlight where reductions could be realized. Brian will research Clearpath and report back to what is involved.

#### CAP Outline

The EAC should, topic by topic, come up with recommendations for the consultant to consider, both municipal and community wide. Each monthly meeting will focus on a specific topic, and will engage the community for input into each topic.

#### Community Engagement

As EAC meetings are open to the public and provide a forum for public engagement, these would suit well to invite anyone with a willingness to contribute to the process. A public outreach strategy should be established, in order to decide how best to engage the public. This could include utilizing the city website, inviting members of the Climate Action Plan Working Group, and reaching out to the Sierra Club, Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife Citizens Climate Lobby, and other community/environmentally-minded organizations. We are open to any other suggestions to facilitate community participation.

The EAC section of the City website should announce what topic will be addressed each month, to make the public aware.

Energy will be addressed next month.

Meeting adjourned 9:05