

**July 10, 2024 6:30 P.M.**  
**DRAFT SERC Meeting Minutes - Remote Participation**

**Board Members Present**

John Hayes, Chair

Will Winn

Rick Nye

Betsy Frederick

Chris Cantone, Vice Chair (left at 7:30PM)

**City Staff Present:**

Stacy Kilb, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator (recorder)

Christian Thiim, Project Manager

**Absent**

Elvis Alvarez

Erin Casey

**Public:**

SATV (recording)

**Introductions**

**City Council Liaison Update (Kyle Davis) – Not present**

**City Updates**

- **Introduction and updates on the Resilient Together: The Point project (Christian Thiim)**
  - CZM Grant wrapped up FY24
  - 2 areas:
    - Physical infrastructure re coastal resiliency in Palmer Cove area
    - Community Outreach/Engagement
      - Climate Resilience Leadership Council
      - Participatory Action Research Groups
  - [Public Input-Resilient Together: The Point](#)

- Next Steps: Applying for additional grant funding to advance CRLC and PAR projects
- PAR research questions: water quality, rats, trash, need for add'l green spaces, impact of sustainability & resiliency enhancements with regards to possible gentrification
  - Status of various grant applications is described
- **Resilient Together Climate Action Plan report (Christian Thiim)**
  - Joint climate action plan w/City of Beverly
  - Plan priorities:
    - Successes and challenges in implementation broken down by City and area of focus
    - Inter-dept review of Plan to discuss which actions/areas should be prioritized
    - Consolidation/deprioritization of some actions
    - Specific actions may be assigned to SERC for input and development
  - Will Winn: In Plan, there is info on output from buildings and transit; do we track or is this an estimate? We can track CO2 from transit, and will delve into GHG inventory and summarize.
    - Can we use car registrations to see if there has been an uptick in purchase of EVs? Yes, we have this info but the state has more comprehensive data.
    - **With opt-in code adoption, can you still install a fossil fuel based heating system or no?**
    - Some town houses/condos in Salem have been running on heat pumps since the 1980s. No reason for new construction to NOT use heat pumps
  - John Hayes thanks Christian for his presentations. John Hayes notes that there were zoom sessions for input on the RT Plan; was there any discussion about an input session for the public? It is better to generate the report and present it.
  - Do the Cities have the Mass Save data on ASHP adoption? John Hayes had them installed 2 weeks ago. Yes, we do have this data available on Mass Energy Insight.
  - Betsy Frederick: Things take longer than anticipated.

- Betsy Frederick: Is the Department hearing from Salem residents commenting on the increased frequency and intensity of storms and inundations? SAFE has seen more interest lately due to this.
  - Seems mixed. There is no shortage of people who are passionate about these issues and willing to discuss, but Christian has not been with the City long enough to notice a trend. But people are more aware of these issues as a coastal community. We are looking into grants for Collins Cove in part due to community feedback.
- John Hayes: Salem and Beverly have a high quality water supply and large storage reservoirs so are somewhat protected from droughts, unlike the rest of the Ipswich River Watershed. Why are the PAR participants interested in water quality? Betsy: some concerns have to do with the quality of the piping that brings the waters from the reservoirs through the Cities and into home. This should be clarified as “Water delivery quality.”
- Will Winn: Collins Cove/living shoreline: How is this perceived and how is it performing? There is community buy-in. Improvements: have it be an in-kind contribution to the City in the upcoming CZM grant but another area on Bridge St. may be the focus. We are not looking to expand the living shoreline long-term as of now.
- **Past Events:**
  - Monday 7/8: Summer Eats Kickoff at Mary Jane Lee Park
- **Upcoming Events (Planned or Scheduled):**
  - Thurs. 8/1 & 9/5: Farmers Market (Stacy & HomeWorks)
  - Thurs. 7/18 & 8/15: Farmers Market (Christian & HomeWorks)
  - Thurs. 4/25 & 8/29: SRD at Daily Table (possibly NGrid for income eligible discounts)
  - Thurs. 9/12 NGrid Energy Fair/Customer Savings Event. 3-7PM; location TBD but most likely El Espacio in The Point
  - 9/27-10/6: NDEW (Virtual event?? W/Salem State?? Or SAFE?)
  - Thurs. 10/3: Haunted Happenings Parade (SERC & Recycling Committee, possibly sponsored by SAFE)
- Traffic & Parking Dept. is now Dept. Of Transportation w/revised mission statement: *“To provide an efficient and reliable multimodal transportation*

*system throughout the City of Salem including complete streets that accommodate all users – pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and drivers. Provide pleasant and secure parking services to residents, businesses and visitors, while maintaining courteous and helpful assistance to the general public.”*

## **Old/New Business**

- **Recap: House of Seven Gables 6/26 “Building Climate Resiliency in the City of Salem” conversation (John Hayes)**
  - Discussion moderated by Dakota Russel, Executive Director of H7G.
  - H7G has two-year CZM grant to develop a Climate Adaptation Plan.
    - [H7G Climate Resiliency](#)
  - Coastal Communities Alliance (21 communities, Mayor’s Office)
  - Coastal Resilience Officer in Healey Driscoll administration
    - [Resilient Coasts Initiative](#)
  - Climate Mayors - City of Salem/Dominic Pangallo are participating
  - Exciting strategies (Mayor):
    - H7G resiliency project (see link above)
    - [Preservation in a Changing Climate Conference](#) Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>
    - Broad view of decarbonizing historic buildings
  - Exciting strategies (Neal):
    - Salem to be designated a “Climate Ready” community
    - [Greening the Gateway Cities](#)
    - [MA MVP \(Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness\) 2.0](#)
  - Salem to become a Climate Leader Community.
  - Rick and John recall how Energy Manager position used to be grant funded and they had to fight to get it renewed.
- *Chris Cantone leaves the meeting at 7:30PM*
- **Recap: South Salem Rail Meeting 6/18 (Betsy Frederick)**
  - See Patti Morsillo’s summary via email.
    - [Recording](#)
    - [Presentation Slides](#)
    - Survey now closed
  - There was recognition that there would be vocal opposition/this will not be an easy to sell to the community.

- Some neighbors want more public input.
- City was awarded a grant for 100% design; conceptual design will be complete by Nov. this year.
- Moving forward with electrification? Spoke of it being concurrent w/development station, but what if this gets delayed?
- Conversation w/MBTA and Crowley re greater electrical demand
  - Not interested in discussing Port electrification.
  - Issue has been raised but City is probably not involved in conversations w/Crowley, Ngrid and MBTA.
- Betsy was surprised at how the meeting was run. Organizers envisioned small working groups sitting at tables looking at drawings but people wanted to express their discontent with the process to date, and there were no microphones for them to make statements.
- Conceptual design renderings are based on an area where Ocean Ave goes back to Broadway by Starbucks. 600' platforms parallel to Broadway will be on both sides of the tracks. Elevators or ramps are being considered. There will be no parking.
- People were also interested in the schedule for electrification of the line; Fairmount line will be done first as it is the shortest line so they can iron out any issues more easily.
- Line goes through many wetlands; climate change considerations will be part of the discussion.
- **Discuss/review research on similar committees/boards in other municipalities**
  - Postponed to July meeting
- **Form a subcommittee of 3 to work with SalemRecycles and SAFE on Sustainability Segment in the Haunted Happenings Parade (Thurs. Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>; application to Salem Chamber due in August)**
  - Meryl makes art in her spare time.
  - Betsy volunteers.
- **Plan August potluck gathering**
  - Postponed to next meeting

## Public Comment

**Approve Meeting Minutes** – May 22, 2024 minutes

*A motion to approve both sets of minutes is made by Betsy Frederick, seconded by Rick Nye, and passes 5-0.*

John Hayes	Yes
William Winn	Yes
Rick Nye	Yes
Betsy Frederick	Yes
Chris Cantone	Yes
Erin Casey	Absent
Elvis Alvarez	Absent

**Upcoming City Committee Meetings**

- Agendas can be found at: <https://www.salemma.gov/minutes-and-agendas>
- **Salem Food Policy Council:** First Monday of the month, 8/5/24, 6:00PM
- **Recycling Committee:** First Tuesday of the month, 8/6/24
- **Tree Commission:** Third Monday of the month, 8/19/24, 6:00 PM
- **Conservation Commission:** Third Tuesday of the month, 8/20/2024, 6:30PM

**Adjournment**

*A motion to adjourn is made by Rick Nye seconded by Will Win , and passes 4-0.*

John Hayes	Yes
William Winn	Yes
Rick Nye	Yes
Betsy Frederick	Yes
Chris Cantone	Absent (left meeting at 7:30)
Erin Casey	Absent
Elvis Alvarez	Absent

*The meeting ends at 7PM*

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Kilb

Clerk, Sustainability, Engagement & Resiliency Committee (SERC)