



Climate Action Brookline – Annual Summary Report October 2019 – October 2020

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Annual Meeting – October 20, 2020

Officers:

- John Harris – continuing as co-chair
- Alan Leviton – CAB's long-term treasurer is stepping down and Gerry Churchill was elected as his successor. Many, many thanks to Alan and welcome to Geri
- Nancy Clark – continuing as secretary

New board members elected:

- Gerry Churchill
- Pat Maher

Current board members whose terms were expiring were re-elected for another term:

- Blake Cady
- Mary Dewart
- Christi Electris
- Paul Harris
- David Lescohier
- David Lowe

Meetings

CAB held monthly meetings to keep members informed on progress and to provide informative speakers to attract additional interest and participation. Meetings were held the second Monday of each month; the standard meeting start time was moved earlier to 5:00 pm in order to avoid possible conflicts with other meetings in town on Monday evening.



Monthly meeting highlights include:

- **November 2019** – a discussion of climate-related warrant articles to come before Brookline Town Meeting. This discussion of warrant articles has since become a regular feature of CAB meetings typically in November and May.
- **February 2020** – CAB sponsored a panel discussion on “Effective State-Wide Climate Activism” with speakers including State Rep Tommy Vitolo, State Senator Cynthia Creem, MCAN executive director Carol Oldham, and Mass Solar co-founder Russell Aney
- **March 2020** – CAB hosted Audrey Schulman and Zeyneb Magavi of HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team) to tell us about their exciting new project. HEET, based in Cambridge MA, is a VERY smart and effective advocacy group. They are working on an exciting and radical next step: GEO MICRO DISTRICTS. Rather than replace our crumbling old natural gas pipelines with new natural gas pipelines – thereby continuing our dependence on a dangerous fossil fuel for another hundred years – why not put in conduits for GEOTHERMAL energy INSTEAD? HEET will tell us about their partnership (!) with utility company Eversource (!) to PILOT such a project in THREE NEIGHBORHOODS in greater Boston.

The March meeting was the last in-person meeting held during 2020; all subsequent meetings have been held virtually

- **April 2020** – “Housebound Activism” – a discussion of actions that can be taken even while sheltering at home. Topics included Opting Up to 100% Green Electricity, Gardening, “Seclusion” Cooking.
- **May 2020** - CAB hosted a panel to discuss Select Board candidate positions regarding the climate crisis, and other environmental issues. Participants included Heather Hamilton, John VanScoyoc, Andy Ghobrial, and Eric Hyett
- **June 2020** – Recycling in Brookline, with speakers John Dempsey and Clint Richmond
- **July 2020** – more on state-level advocacy with the following speakers:
 - Ben Hellerstein of Environment Massachusetts: the Decker/Garballey 100% Renewable Energy Act.
 - Arnie Epstein of Elders’ Climate Action: The Road Map Bill (H 3983).
 - Haskell Werlin of Solar Design Associates: various photovoltaics (solar electricity) bills.
 - Mary Dewart, CAB Board Member and MCAN Board Member: MCAN’s priority bills.
- **September 2020** – beginning discussion of the Collins Center Report on Brookline’s sustainability plans
- **October 2020** – annual meeting (see above)



Accomplishments:

CAB's Climate Engagement Fund

To kick off the new decade Climate Action Brookline launched a small grants program for local climate action. The program began January 2 and is a continuing effort. To apply people would go to: <http://bit.ly/ClimateCrisisFund>

Three applications were received and two grants were awarded to Jessica Ullian, to have a TerraCycle e-waste dropoff, and Anna Gao, also for a recycling effort. Both have had to be put on hold due to Covid-19.

Climate is Everybody's Business

In 2019, the CIEB project was launched, recognizing that the Town of Brookline's goal to reach zero emissions by 2050 cannot be achieved without the participation of Brookline's commercial sector (which includes businesses, faith organizations, and nonprofits). This sector accounts for approximately 23% of the town's carbon emissions. The purpose of this project is to engage and educate the more than 500 commercial entities in Brookline around sustainable "green practices" that make good environmental, health and economic sense.

In 2019, CAB helped the CIEB project by providing \$1,000 in funding. In 2020, CAB became the sponsor of the project and will be managing its finances.

Brookline Farmer's Market

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Brookline Farmers' Market, which planned to open on June 4th, needed to make modifications, cutting vendors by almost half. In addition, they anticipated many extra expenses – for example, rental of handwashing stations.

The Farmers' Market asked CAB, as a 501(c)3 organization, if we would be willing to submit a Spotlight grant to the Brookline Community Foundation.

The Board approved this effort, CAB's treasurer submitted the grant application for \$1,000, and it was approved.

Town Sustainability Efforts and Working Teams

In early 2020, following the resignation of the town's first Sustainability Director, the town hired a consultant to advise on ways to move forward in the response to sustainability and the climate crisis. The study was done by the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston.

The report discusses the roles of the (currently vacant) Sustainability Coordinator, the Select Board and the Select Board Climate Action Committee, the Town Administrator and Department heads and staff, the Sustainability Working Teams, and advocacy groups like CAB, MOF and ECA, and makes recommendations to optimize the effectiveness of each.

Several members of CAB's board were interviewed by the Collins Center to provide input for the report. Following the release of the report in August 2020, CAB has been engaged in crafting a letter indicating our support, along with comments and suggestions for improvement.



In addition, CAB members have been actively involved in several of the Sustainability Working Teams that were initiated in late 2019/early 2020. Some of these teams have continued working quite actively, for example the Transportation Working Team.

Climate Spring

Continuing with its annual program of Climate Week/Climate Spring, CAB scheduled eight programs for March, April and May 2020. Due to Covid-19, many of the events had to be cancelled, although a few were able to be held virtually.

One of the exciting virtual events was “Undeclared Emergency: Addressing the Climate Crisis in our Schools,” which was presented on May 13th. Roger Grande, BHS Teacher, who has spent the year working with educators, students, and parents/caregivers to make sustainability a core practice in Brookline schools, spoke on why schools must serve as a key institution in addressing climate change. Further, he presented a blueprint for how Brookline Schools can move forward and adopt a sustainability mission.

Financial Summary

CAB is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our annual budget is relatively small, typically running less than \$10,000 annually. In 2020, CAB’s internal (i.e., non-grant related expenses) totaled less than \$1,000.

2020 Income:

Fundraising	\$1,684.28
Grants – Brookline Community Foundation for Brookline Farmer’s Market	\$1,000
Grants – New England Grassroots Foundation for Climate is Everybody’s Business	\$2,300
TOTAL INCOME	\$4,984.28

2020 Expenses:

CAB Admin Expenses (total of \$847.09)	
Credit Card Fees:	\$ 16.60
Admin Expenses PO Box, DBA Renewal, PC Filing Fee, Printing	\$ 260.79
Internet Domain Fees	\$ 249.70
Web Services (Openstretch)	\$ 250.00
Conference Fees – Toxics Action Center	\$ 70.00
Brookline Farmer’s Market	\$1,000.00
Climate is Everybody’s Business	\$1,800.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,647.09