

Somerville Interim Climate Action Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2025, 2025 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Commissioners Attending: *Alexis Washburn (acting chair), Eliza Johnston, Courtney Koslow, Christine Blais (ex-officio)*

Commissioners Not Attending: *Ramón Bueno, Larry Yu*

Attendees: *Garrett Anderson, Energy Manager, Councilor Mbab, Ben Capraro and William Valletta*

Meeting started at 7:02 PM.

Agenda item

- Introductions
 - Commissioners, OSE staff, and members of the public introduced themselves.
- Approval of September meeting minutes
 - No Public Comment
 - Meeting minutes are approved - Motion passes unanimously
- Update from Commissioner Courtney Koslow on school decarbonization meeting (15 minutes)
 - Courtney provided an overview of the recent Fall meeting on school decarbonization, and specific funding / TA opportunities, namely the upcoming (December 2025) round of TESI funding (Transforming Energy in School Initiative), a MA DOER opportunity. She also discussed examples of envelope upgrades on occupied buildings (currently used in affordable housing) that could be implemented in Somerville for active schools.
 - Christine shared an overview of the TA programs and funding opportunities that the City has been pursuing. Overarching goal is to have a plan in place so they can be more nimble to respond to opportunities.
 - Garrett discussed the challenges of doing complex energy work on active school buildings.
 - Alexis asked if any of our schools have had comprehensive building assessments (CBA), which is a requirement to apply for TESI funding.
 - Garrett confirmed that none currently have CBAs, but the City is actively working with our MassSave Sponsor (Eversource) and existing contractors to move ahead with CBAs. He expects to have the funding to audit 5 schools using a variety of funding sources. The timeline is not confirmed but could be expedited for qualifying schools if City decides to pursue TESI funding.
 - Alexis commented that TESI funding is focused on displacing 60% of fossil fuel usage in a building, not 100% decarbonization, so while high goals are great, the City should focus on what is achievable. TESI is significant and this type of funding opportunity may not come around again.
 - Commission requested an update on the TESI funding and / or other funding opportunities next month, likely via memo.
 - No Public Comment

- Discussion of how OSE can facilitate sharing the City's climate work in order to improve public engagement
 - Christine facilitated a brainstorm session on how we can better communicate to the community on what the City is doing related to climate resiliency using Canva (see attachment)
 - A key theme from the discussion is that conversations emerge across all mediums (email, Whats App, other community groups, neighborhood newsletters, neighborhood listservs/Facebook Groups, etc) in the context of other discussions around community-focused topics.
 - Questions related to Somerville's role in regional issues and collaboration / communication were particularly relevant for Commissioners.
 - The City already produces a lot of great content, but it can be hard to find on the website or outside of the newsletters. The group discussed a blog with easy to find information that is immediately relevant.
 - No Public Comment
- Quick Reminders from OSE
 - Reminder of fall outreach opportunities for commissioners: There are a few more events this Fall if Commissioners want to participate, including Monster Mash on Sunday.
 - Update on draft bylaws: Waiting for feedback from Law Dept.
 - Update on draft CAC job posting: Waiting for feedback from Law & Communications and then it goes to translation. Timeline is likely to push recommendations of selected candidates into early 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.