

Somerville Interim Climate Action Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
Hybrid Meeting

Commissioners Attending: *Alexis Washburn, Eliza Johnston, Ramón Bueno (vice-chair), Larry Yu (chair), Christine Blais (ex-officio), Jason Behrens (ex-officio)*

Commissioners Not Attending: *Courtney Koslow*

Attendees: Kate Bossingham (OSE), Paul Rhodes, William Valletta, Jessie Alvares, Ariel Goharzadeh, Marcus Glomset, John Scherbarth, Ben Capraro

Meeting started at 07:04 PM.

Agenda item

- **Introductions**
 - Commissioners, OSE and SPS staff, and members of the public introduced themselves.
- **Approval of December meeting minutes**
 - Commissioner Bueno made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes and Commissioner Johnston seconded. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:12pm.
- **2026 ICAC position nominations**
 - Commissioners nominated Larry Yu as Chair, Ramón Bueno as Vice-Chair and Alexis Washburn as Clerk.
 - Commissioner Johnston made a motion to nominate the slate of candidates and Commissioner Washburn seconded. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:15pm.
- **Outreach for Climate Action Commission (CAC) members and process for application evaluation (20 minutes)**
 - OSE updated that the open position posting for the commission is now with the city's communication team.
 - OSE asked for the current commission members' help and assistance to help spread the word to get a robust group of applicants.
 - Commissioner Johnston asked what the policy was for evaluating applications?
 - OSE shared that in the past the administrative chair and staff liaison would conduct the interviews. However it is possible that other members of the new administration may want to participate at different points in the process. They also noted that this process could be different since we are advertising for 13 open positions.
 - OSE also reiterated that there are plenty of opportunities to get involved if community members can't not meet all of the commission commitments.
 - OSE reminded commissioners that all current commission members will need to reapply.

- **Discussion about ICAC Ex-Officio member Jason Behrens' December 2025 presentation on climate education in Somerville Public Schools (20 minutes)**
 - Commissioner Johnston reiterated that the commission is happy to be of help to support different initiatives.
 - Jason Behrens mentioned that SPS is applying for a grant to launch a civics engagement lab with the main focus on climate action at the high school. The hope is that this would expand across the district. Jason asked the community to volunteer for different activities that the engagement lab might launch during the Wednesday afternoon period (1:45-3:30pm which is when the high school has early release). Teachers often have commitments at this time, so this can be a good opportunity for volunteers to engage with Somerville students.
- **Update from the Office of Sustainability and Environment on grants and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) (15 minutes)**
 - Bloomberg Philanthropies
 - The City is currently applying for funding to support the SPS civic engagement lab.
 - Networked Geothermal
 - OSE is currently reviewing responses to select a vendor to evaluate different ownership and financing models.
 - Commissioner Bueno mentioned that there are students at MIT and BU who are working on climate issues with a professor at MIT who is leading research on networked geothermal. Commissioner Bueno mentioned that those students will need to volunteer as a part of their coursework and could assist with this project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03PM.