

Somerville Interim Climate Action Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Commissioners Attending: Larry Yu (chair), Courtney Koslow, Eliza Johnston, Steven Nutter (ex-officio)

Commissioners Not Attending: Ramón Bueno (vice-chair), Alexis Washburn (clerk), Jason Behrens (ex-officio)

Attendees from the City: Kate Bossingham (OSE), Emily Sullivan (OSE)

Attendees: Ewan Henrie, Luke Smith

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM.

Agenda Item

- **Introductions of meeting attendees**
 - Commissioners, OSE staff, and members of the public introduced themselves.
- **Approval of May meeting minutes**
 - Commissioner Johnston moved to approve the May meeting minutes. Commissioner Koslow seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
- **Somerville Community Choice Electricity plan update and public comment period**
 - Kate Bossingham shared that the Office of Sustainability and Environment in partnership with consultant Good Energy has an open comment period on a revised plan for the Somerville Community Choice Electricity Plan to align with a new standardized plan template from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.
 - The revised plan will provide more flexibility to the City and increase transparency.
 - The revised plan also changes the default product for low-income customers to be the “Somerville Basic” product.
 - The comment period is open until July 3, 2026. The plan can be accessed at cce.somervillema.gov and comments can be submitted through the website or by email to Good Energy.
 - Commissioner Yu asked if there was a specific ask for ICAC Members.
 - Kate Bossingham invited members of the public and the ICAC to review the plan and comment if interested in doing so.
- **Update from the Office of Sustainability and Environment: City departmental reorganization**
 - Steven Nutter provided an overview of the new city departmental structure (for Fiscal Year 2027) available in the FY27 budget book.
 - The Office of Sustainability and Environmental Office will no longer be the “Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Environmental Office” and will move into the Strategy and Development Department (previously the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development) as the Sustainability and Environment Division.
 - Commissioner Johnston asked for Director Nutter’s thoughts on how the reorganization will impact the division’s work.
 - Director Nutter expressed that the reorganization will help increase collaboration.
 - Commissioner Koslow expressed that she hoped the reorganization would help to break down silos that have hindered climate action in the past.

- Commissioner Koslow asked about a potential alternative placement of the division with Infrastructure and Asset Management.
 - Director Nutter responded that sustainability work can touch many areas beyond just municipal buildings, and sitting within the Strategy and Development Department will allow us to impact all of them.
 - Commissioner Yu expressed there is somewhat of a trade-off between no longer being within the Mayor's Office, and potential loss of coordination across departments, and the greater integration with divisions that sustainability overlaps with significantly, like Mobility.
 - Director Nutter stated that the structure has been used in practice since January and is working well.
- **Update from the Office of Sustainability and Environment: Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Plan**
 - Kate Bossingham shared that the City of Somerville has proposed a draft combined sewer overflow plan. The draft plan takes into account climate change impacts in a typical 2050 year. OSE wanted to make the ICAC aware that the project team will be holding office hours June through September 2026.
 - Director Nutter commented that the draft plan is something that's in the Climate Forward 2024 plan and also its accounting for the impacts of climate change reflects Somerville's work in that area, including by this Commission.
 - Commissioner Yu commented that the draft plan is also a result of a lawsuit to the MWRA.
 - Commissioner Yu discussed the draft plan with former Commissioner Julie Wood, who could not join tonight's meeting due to a webinar on the same topic.
 - Commissioner Yu discussed the costs analysis done by MWRA and Stantec as part of the draft plan. Cambridge and Somerville will bear significant costs from this draft plan, which Commissioner Yu finds disappointing. Mayor Wilson also wrote a recent op-ed in the Boston Globe on this subject. Commissioner Yu also expressed disappointment in the 2050 typical year decision and that it was not 2050 25 year.
 - Director Nutter encouraged ICAC to review Director Raiche's April presentation to City Council on this subject.
 - Commissioner Koslow asked to clarify if the draft plan would separate all sewers.
 - Director Nutter said CSOs are a very complex problem with legacy infrastructure and the cost associated with increased control beyond what's in the draft plan goes up significantly.
 - Commissioner Johnston asked if the public comment period was an opportunity for meaningful change to the draft plan.
 - Commissioner Yu said that the initial draft plan changed since the current draft due to significant advocacy across the watersheds.
 - Kate Bossingham emphasized that the ICAC and others interested members of the public should take advantage of the public engagement opportunities this summer and fall.
 - Commissioner Yu stated that he would have difficulty advocating for a higher level cost plan without a different cost share.
 - **Reflection on 2026 Climate Ambassador Presentations**

- Emily Sullivan gave an overview of the Climate Ambassadors Program and the recent presentations for the seventh cohort. No attrition in 2026 cohort and the best attended final presentation ever.
 - Emily shared that OSE provides some final project ideas for ambassadors, and would welcome any ideas from the CAC in the future.
 - Emily and Commissioner Yu shared some examples of final projects.
 - Commissioner Yu commented that he appreciated that the most recent cohorts of Climate Ambassadors have focused on catalytic, out-in-the-community projects.
 - OSE plans to highlight the projects on our website and social media in the coming months as resources to the community.
 - Emily shared that the alumni network for the Climate Ambassador program is also very strong.
 - Emily and Director Nutter emphasized the importance of the work OSE's Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist Naomi Gross has done to make this program a success.
- **Metro Boston Youth Climate Summit and Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Grant**
 - Emily provided an overview of the Metro Boston Youth Climate Summit, which was held in May at Somerville High School. Summit was co-planned by Boston regional youth. Plan for it to be a biannual event.
 - Summit included working sessions for youth to learn about different topics such as environmental communication, extreme heat, and natural resources management.
 - Emily gave an overview of the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Grant, which is a microgrant program through which the City will provide \$1,000-5,000 microgrants to Somerville youth or youth-serving organizations for climate action projects. Applications are anticipated to open in September.
 - Commissioner Yu asked if there could be a Youth Climate Ambassadors Program to accompany the microgrant program.
- **Next meeting, request for agenda items and scheduling**
 - Tentatively plan for a July 14, 2026, virtual meeting. Could send a Doodle poll for an in-person meeting in August.
 - Commissioner Koslow requested that a future meeting have an update or conversation about the process and timing on the school decarbonization efforts that will need to happen in order for there to be a debt override vote that goes alongside the vote for the new school building at 115 Sycamore. Director Nutter said that could possibly be a topic in August or September.
 - Commissioner Johnston and Commissioner Yu discussed the need for an onboarding background/process presentation for new Commissioners.
 - Kate stated that she would keep Commissioners updated on how quickly we expected the appointment process to move and how that might affect the potential July agenda.

Commissioner Koslow moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Johnston seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.