

Chevy Chase Climate Protection Task Force
Minutes of 8/22/06 Meeting at Judy McGuire's House

Participants: Rob Enelow, Betsey Haddad, Betsy Johnson, Judy McGuire, Christine Real de Azua, Dian Seidel, Stuart Sessions

- I. Status of the Task Force: Rob outlined his perception of the Climate Protection Committee (CPC), given the recent restructuring of Town committees by the Town Council and the creation of an Environment Committee. Speaking unofficially (not on behalf of the Council), he indicated that CPC members do not need to apply for membership on the CPC and that the CPC would not immediately be disbanded or merged with the new Environment Committee. The long-term status of the CPC is not clear. Rob and Judy discussed the possibility of a budget for CPC purposes (e.g., meeting attendance and travel costs, hiring consultants) to avoid the need to get Council approval for every expenditure.
- II. Street Lights Update: Judy and Christine briefed the committee. The proposal developed by the CPC at its June meeting has not yet taken up by the Council. It included recommendations regarding (1) purchase of green tags to offset carbon emissions associated with Town street lights for a six-month period, (2) developing partnerships with other local jurisdictions to negotiate green energy arrangements with PEPCO for the future, and (3) changing the type of street light to a more energy efficient variety. Rob agreed to discuss the issue with Town Manager Todd Hoffman, get the Town staff engaged with other communities to form a negotiating partnership, and speak with Mayor Linna Barnes to get this issue on the Council's September 13 meeting agenda. Judy and Christine agreed to provide the latest version of the proposal to Rob. Stuart agreed to attend the Council meeting to represent the CPC
- III. Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory: Stuart provided an update to the group on the status of this activity, whose purpose is to provide baseline information on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Town. There has been little progress over the summer, and Stuart estimated completing the survey might take about 100 person-hours. Stuart agreed to develop a plan for completing the assessment, involving volunteers from the CPC, possible student volunteers, etc., by mid-September.
- IV. Light Bulbs: So far, about 30-40 residents have picked up their free compact fluorescent light bulbs from the Town Office, which has also prepared a list of homebound residents to whom bulbs could be delivered. Betsy and Betsey agreed to distribute bulbs to those folks. Dian suggested a Halloween bulb delivery project by trick-or-treating town kids and agreed to try to recruit a few.
- V. DC Green Festival: Judy mentioned Sally Kelly's idea of getting a group of Chevy Chase residents to attend the festival together to get ideas for our Town.

- VI. **An Inconvenient Truth:** Judy suggested screening this new documentary film in Town for residents and hosting a discussion session afterwards. Dian suggested inviting Al Gore to address the audience. Rob agreed to contact Mr. Gore via a mutual friend to gauge his potential interest. Judy agreed to contact the film's distributor regarding possible screening. With this information, the CPC will decide a course of action later.
- VII. **Earth Day:** Judy proposed an Earth Day event in Town. Earth Day is April 22. After some discussion, the group decided that it might be best to encourage participation in the DC Earth Day events on the Mall, and consider a Town of Chevy Chase booth regarding our participation in the Mayors' Climate Agreement.
- VIII. **Green Products List:** The group discussed adding a list of vendors of green products and services to the Town's web site. Judy agreed to ask Sally Kelly to take a first cut at such a list.
- IX. **Liaison with Takoma Park:** The group discussed trying to learn from the experience of Takoma Park, the local jurisdiction that has done the most to date to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Stuart agreed to contact Katherine Tunis about possible options for interacting with the Takoma Park equivalent of our committee. One idea was to encourage them to consider expanding their influence by mentoring other communities, such as Chevy Chase.
- X. **Leaf Blowers:** Following up on Julia Randall's suggestion that the CPC recommend use of electric rather than gasoline powered leaf blowers, Stuart presented an analysis of carbon emissions from both types. His results indicate that electric blowers emit about 3 times more carbon per unit time than gas-powered blowers. On the basis of climate impacts, the committee felt it could not support Julia's suggestion. There followed a discussion of the multi-faceted nature of environmental impact assessments. In this case, noise and local air pollution effects are more serious for gas-powered mowers, but energy use is higher for electric. The committee agreed that manual raking was the best solution. A discussion on the Town's leaf pickup program and transportation of leaves to composting facilities far from Chevy Chase ensued. Judy agreed to investigate the carbon emissions associated with this program. The October article for the Forecast was to be on leaf blowers, and the committee agreed that it should deal with the multiple dimensions of the issue and recommend raking and local composting of leaves.
- XI. **Issues of Opportunity:** Christina suggested that the CPC consider taking advantage of opportunities to make headway in Town climate protection goals by keying in to issues already on the Town's agenda. For example, the Town will be considering water drainage issues at the September 13 Council meeting, and the impact of various drainage options on climate should be identified. With the concurrence of the group, Christina agreed to prepare a draft position paper as

CPC input to the discussion. Stuart will represent the CPC at the meeting. Committee members will have an opportunity to review the position statement before the Council meeting.

XII. The group agreed to hold future meetings monthly, on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 26, 2006.

XIII. Adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Dian Seidel