



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Climate Action Committee

Minutes of the electronic meeting of the Climate Action Committee held on Monday, July 27, 2020 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Meghan Lahti, Chair
Councillor Amy Lubik, Vice-Chair
Elaine Golds
Helen Howes
Mike Kasuya
Shelley Moore
Derek Wilson

Absent

Rebecca Lyon (Regrets)
Bryn Sadownik (Regrets)

In Attendance

Mary De Paoli – Manager of Policy Planning
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator
Laura Sampliner – Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

- 2.1 CAC20/012
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED
THAT the minutes of the Climate Action Committee meeting held on Monday, May 25, 2020 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Energy Step Code Update

4.1 Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

Staff provided an update on the Energy Step Code implementation, noting the following:

- 10 applications have been received since the implementation of new Energy Step Code requirements; these Part 9 applications are currently at the building permit stage;

- the process is going well, and staff are continuing to improve internal processes, updating documents, and making process more efficient;
- the City is offering air tightness testing rebates for Part 9 buildings new constructions; the uptake could be less than projected due to COVID-19;
- air tightness testing rebates are as follows: up to \$400 for existing buildings; up to \$200 for new buildings targeting Step 1; up to \$400 for new buildings targeting Step 3 or higher; rebates can be applied for both mid-construction and completion phases; rebates are provided by BC Hydro and administered through local governments;
- for rezoning applications that were in-stream during Energy Step Code implementation, staff continue to update these applicants on the Step Code and negotiate with them on energy efficiency; and
- the Sustainability and Energy Coordinator position is now the Co-Chair of the local government step code network, which involves liaising with provincial and local government counterparts, and has been a good learning and information sharing experience.

**Sustainability Report
Card Review
Workshop**

4.2 Sustainability and Energy Coordinator

Attachments:

- a) Sustainability Report Card – Mixed Use
- b) Sustainability Report Card Presentation

The Sustainability and Energy Coordinator gave a presentation on the Sustainability Report Card review, noting the following:

- the Report Card is based on four pillars of sustainability (environmental, social, cultural, and economic), and focuses on sustainable design principles;
- copies of the report card and score are submitted to the Community Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) and Council for their review;
- the Report Card is continuously updated based on the need to adapt to changes to requirements, priorities, and the development approval process;
- concerns expressed by development applicants and planners regarding the Report Card include: fairness and accuracy of scoring and weighting, reflection of current policy, and the need to provide clarity on how to complete the report card; and
- suggestions to improve the Report Card include providing an alternate grading system, simplifying questions, removing required initiatives, distributing of weighting, and automatic calculation of scores.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- the Report Card should consistently include staff feedback when provided to CPAC and Council for review;
- the Report Card should encourage the reduction of concrete use, which releases large amounts of greenhouse gases;
- the Report Card should provide opportunities for planting trees, and other carbon sequestration opportunities, and promote ground infiltration of rainwater;
- the Report Card should request information from applicants regarding building design to mitigate future extreme weather, including their combined effects;
- forest fire damage prevention should be high priority for projects near forest interface;
- the Report Card should address the long-term impact of sea level rise, and allow for transfer or purchase of density from flooded sites to proposed development sites;
- provide incentives to retain existing shade trees on development sites;
- encourage site design for solid waste removal which reduce bear attractants, especially for multi-family dwellings;
- include energy efficient windows as a requirement;
- include a requirement for back-up power for elevator and water pump operations for buildings over 3-stories;
- encourage underground power transmission lines;
- provide greater educational opportunities for the Energy Step Code, and provide definitions of what the City is looking for;
- Include the City's latest Affordable Housing policies into the Report Card;
- If policies are removed from the Report Card, provide applicants with a summary of City policies as an addendum or as a pre-requisite to the Report Card;
- the Report Card should incentivize applicants to go beyond the minimum requirements of City policies, such as encouraging resiliency in building design;
- the Report Card should Include considerations of how the heat island effect will be addressed;
- scoring for the Report Card appears to be subjective and could be frustrating to applicants, as there are no clear metrics on how to achieve higher scores or whether requirements have been met;
- the wording for different benchmarks is confusing for applicants; clarify expectations and provide as much information as possible up front;
- staff should meet with the applicants before the process to provide more information and guidance up front, and as an opportunity to clarify the Report Card;
- provide applicants with a tutorial on how to complete the Report Card, and how to score points; provide examples of what the City is looking for;

- “low-hanging fruits” on the Report Card should not have high values; applicants should be made to earn the points and discouraged from scoring points for purely numerical reasons;
- a “cookie cutter” approach to every application could stifle innovation; encourage brilliant green ideas and reward innovation;
- there is overlap of criteria in a few of the pillars; clean up some of the duplication in the criteria;
- other municipalities use similar tools that are more automated; and
- the City of Vancouver provides density bonusing incentives for meeting its zero emissions building policy.

Video: Understanding Climate Impacts on Service Delivery

- 4.3 Video link: <https://fcm.ca/en/resources/video-series-climate-resilience-and-asset-management?cldee=bWRlcGFvbGlAcG9ydG1vb2R5LmNh&recipientid=contact-b56cd44af22ee91180cc005056bc7996-93b84ccdc4e349ea9ebc044a3452491a&esid=b7ab731d-6ab2-ea11-80d0-005056bc7996>

The Committee viewed a video which discusses the impact of climate change on municipal service delivery asset management planning.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff noted that future climate scenarios are currently factored into infrastructure projects, and that the City can apply a climate change lens to its existing asset management strategy.

5. Information

Staff Updates

- 5.1 There were no staff updates.

6. Adjournment

Councillor Lahti adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.


Councillor Meghan Lahti,
Chair


Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator