

**TOWN OF CARRBORO  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD – SUMMARY**



Meeting on May 7, 2020, 7:00 pm, Virtual Zoom Meeting

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Town Council Liaison</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Guests</b>
Tim Turner (Chair)	Sammy Slade	Laura Janway	Bruce Sinclair
Jeanette O'Connor	Randee Haven-O'Donnell		Jackson Bradford (EAB Applicant)
Kathy Kaufman			Chrissie Schalkoff (EAB Applicant)

Note: Absent/Excused: None

**Call to Order, Announcements**

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm by Chair Turner.

Chair Turner noted that Bruce Sinclair has been appointed to the Planning Board and a decision was made by staff that new appointments to the EAB will be postponed until the Town Council has addressed the proposed advisory board reconfiguration.

**Approval of Minutes –March 5, 2020 Meeting**

O'Connor motioned to approve the minutes from the March 5th, 2020 meeting. This motion was seconded by Kaufman.

**AYES: (3) Turner, Kaufman, O'Connor; NAYES: (0)**

**Comments on Scope of Duties and Possible Adjustments for Environmental Advisory Board, Planning Board and Appearance Commission**

EAB Members discussed the proposed scope of duties and possible adjustments to the Environmental Advisory Board, Planning Board, and Appearance Commission.

Town Council Member Haven-O'Donnell mentioned that staff should continue to examine which specific Town advisory board will be charged with discussing trees. Guest Sinclair stated that the Appearance Commission might not have the relevant expertise needed to suggest new environmental policies for the Town.

EAB Members worked to edit a document of recommendations drafted by Chair Turner. The included the following statements and recommendations:

- The EAB's role to provide input on the Town's Community Climate Action Plan implementation has increased since 2019, and this has increased the length and frequency of meetings required to make progress on all items.
- There was consensus among the EAB members that climate action is sufficiently important to merit its own advisory board. EAB members reiterated that it was not their intention in their September 2019 memo that the existing EAB should be dismantled.
- EAB members discussed that they feel eliminating the EAB will divide its functions among other boards, effectively silencing the focused discussion on environmental issues that concern the town, and dismantling the expertise that the EAB represents.
- The EAB provided a list of their specific contributions to development reviews in the past year.

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- The EAB recommends, in the strongest possible terms, that the Town Council approve the formation of a new Climate Action and Sustainability Commission (CASC), while leaving the existing EAB charter unaltered.

Kaufman motioned to approve the document. O'Connor seconded this motion. All members voted in favor. **AYES: (3) Turner, O'Connor, Kaufman; NAYES: (0).**

#### **Discuss FY20-21 Climate Action Work Plan**

Staff member Janway provided a presentation on the draft FY20-21 Climate Action Work Plan for the proposed FY20-21 Budget. EAB members provided feedback for staff to incorporate into the plans for the projects moving forward in the next fiscal year, including how to determine metrics for project success.

Town Council Member Haven-O'Donnell mentioned working with local agriculture to address the Food Choices section of the Community Climate Action Plan. Guest Schalkoff mentioned that the community has shown a generous spirit of giving and helping others during the COVID-19 pandemic and this might extend to climate action initiatives related to local eating as well. EAB members expressed enthusiasm to move forward with items on the work plan and staff member Janway stated that EAB members will have additional opportunities to provide input as the projects are developed and implemented.

#### **Discuss EAB Memo on Climate Action Plan Emergency Operating Procedures**

EAB Members discussed the memo written by Carrboro resident Tilly Pick. Members discussed the objective of the memo and felt they needed more information before making a decision. Motion was made by O'Connor and seconded by Kaufman to add this topic to a future EAB agenda and to invite Mr. Pick to speak and answer questions about the memo. All voted in favor. **AYES: (3) Turner, O'Connor, Kaufman; NAYES: (0).**

#### **Adjourn**

Staff member Janway requested the EAB's input on a project initiated by Town Council Member Haven-O'Donnell and several Carrboro residents related to creating modules for Community Climate Action Plan outreach. Chair Turner decided to call a Special Meeting for May 21, 2020 to discuss this project.

The motion to adjourn was made by Kaufman and seconded by O'Connor, with all members voting in favor. **AYES: (3) Turner, O'Connor, Kaufman; NAYES: (0).** The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.