

CAST Meeting Notes January 19, 2022

Present: Dana, Laura, Lee, John, Carolyn

Action item: Dana to speak with Matt about plans for charging stations based on connectivity. Are there areas beyond Currier Street as possible locations for charging stations?

Action Item: Include information about the website in Feb report. Need to ask SB for permission to have a unique CAST website. Laura to speak with the tech center about student resources. Carolyn will ask Ted about costs and website support from his shop.

Action Item: Dana to get format info for report by the first week of February or next meeting.

Action Item: Money has been allocated for Rt 5 and Quechee sidewalks. CAST would need to generate public interest in the project. This is a political process that will take time. CAST decided to defer action on this until August for the large long range plan. Idea is to talk in the future about sidewalks with an emphasis of connectivity of existing sidewalks and bike paths. This should be added to the August meeting agenda.

Action Item: Vehicle to raise private funds for public projects. John says Community Foundations are in place to do that. He placed a call about funding the Food Forest. He has also called Vital Communities. Molly mentioned a Green Revolving Loan Fund as a possible source for money. Dana says that notes exist on the topic in his office. He will look for them. Open Question: Can something like the Conservation Reserve Fund be set up?

Action Item: CAST members should email questions on various topics for Matt and Laura for further research about zoning considerations. Molly will contact a lawyer with expertise related to zoning and climate action.

Action Item: Dana is reviewing the town's procurement policies and how CAP can be considered. He is starting with Public Works on incorporating a paragraph on how decisions impact the CAP in memo's to the board. Dana will ask department heads to identify vehicle needs in the next 1-3 years and mechanical systems in terms of climate friendly options, design, procurement and supply.

Action Item: Two works-in-progress items to include in the February report: Status of window dressers and Drive Electric Week.

Update: Dana will update group about how ARPA money is being distributed. Hartford got \$2.8 million. Vermont League of City and Towns have published guidelines on use of the money.

We are still waiting for information on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Expect to wait another 6 months before federal government releases these funds and final federal requirements for use of the money is clarified.

Question: John asked, Can CAST set priorities for the town on how to spend the federal funds in terms of climate action plan? Carolyn suggests we identify sector or cross sector priorities that require funds and give a lot of bang for the dollar. John suggests that CAST will compile priority projects that could be funded with federal money.

Update: Laura will review Tree Board plan. CAST will send comments to Laura who is working with Jeff Arnold.

NEXT Meeting: Dana sending a poll on January 20.

