

**SUMMARY OF THE
CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING TEAM MEETING
VILLAGE OF NORTHBROOK
December 14, 2020**

Call to Order

Deputy Director of Development and Planning Services Michaela Kohlstedt called the CAPT meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in a remote meeting through Zoom virtual meeting platform. Ms. Kohlstedt was present in the Village Hall, but there were no members of the public in attendance in the building.

Roll Call

The following Members were in attendance: Trustee Israel, Trustee Ross, John Albrecht, Nell Badgley, Frank Bleeker, Derrik Chen, Steven Elisco, Jill Franklin, Melissa Hirsch, Robyn Kole, Pat Lederer, Becky Mathison, Clare Poupard, Len Rago, Scott Robson, Joan Scovic, Aaron Stash, Patti Vile, and Sandy Weiss.

Members absent: Jeni Brickman, Kim Ptak.

The following Village Staff were in attendance: Michaela Kohlstedt, Tom Poupard, Jackie Clawson, Madeline Farrell, Corey Friedman, Erik Jensen, Matt Morrison, Kelly Hamill, and Swati Pandey.

Also Present: paleBLUEdot consultant Ted Redmond, Greenest Region Corps Member Tessa Murray, Tracey Becker, and Doug Gerleman.

Public Comments Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

Tracey Becker stated her support for the CAPT to be taking formal steps in implementing climate change adaptation strategies as the situation becomes dire. She reminded the CAPT members that no step is too small. She vocalized concern for her teenage children that climate change will lead to food insecurity and more than one pandemic in their lifetime. She hopes the plan will result in increased biodiversity in Northbrook.

Doug Gerleman agreed with Tracey that the CAPT is a wonderful step forward for Northbrook. He hoped members will consider focusing on landscape improvements over tree plantings to advance stormwater drainage and carbon storage. He cited Northbrook's Village Forester Terry Cichocki's recommendations for native plants. He mentioned Northbrook Community Television as a potential opportunity to begin the conversation on sustainable landscaping choices.

Welcome Comments and Meeting Goal Overview

paleBLUEdot consultant Ted Redmond thanked the members of the public for their input. He explained that the goal of this workshop is to gather a preliminary consensus for target greenhouse gas reduction, action screening criteria, and begin breakout discussions in subteam groups. This meeting will have three breakout sessions where members will hear short presentations from Village staff related to each subteam topic. After presenting, members can discuss preliminary strategic goals related to each sector.

High-Level Review of Climate Action Plan Example

Mr. Redmond provided an overview of Northbrook's baseline assessment drafts' recommendations as they are separated into mitigation and climate adaptation strategies. Mr. Redmond explained that strategies should contain specific target numbers, such as energy efficiency improvements like a 10% reduction in electricity and 5% reduction in natural gas consumption by 2030. Once these are established, detailed actions can be identified using the Climate Action finder tool, and paleBLUEdot will conduct emissions modeling to calculate the potential reduction in emissions if the plan is implemented within 10 years. The final products of the Climate Action Plan will include a document and implementation matrix with detailed actions organized by strategy.

Member Albrecht asked if agencies beyond the Village will commit to these same goals and Mr. Redmond answered that this plan hopes to inspire community-wide action. Member Rago asked if the recommendations listed in the baseline assessments are known to be feasible from other communities' experiences. Mr. Redmond said the intention of goals should be at a point between doable and far-reaching. Mr. Redmond mentioned that of the baseline documents, the waste management goal recommendation may be the most unfeasible. The current recommended goal is a 51% landfill diversion rate by 2030, which doubles Northbrook's current diversion rate.

Review of Overall GHG Reduction Goal

Mr. Redmond explained that Northbrook's emissions reduction goal aligns with Illinois' executive order that commit the state to the mission of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius. This involves a 25-55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below Northbrook's baseline 2018 levels by 2030 and 80% below 2018 levels by 2040. After a poll and further discussion, the team members agreed to these preliminary goals and to reassess at a later time.

Breakout Round 1

Mr. Redmond instructed each subteam group to first establish a team lead to represent the group and provide a synopsis on what was discussed when members reconvene in the main room.

As a representative for the Transportation and Land Use subteam, Member Stash summarized that Director of Public Works Kelly Hamill presented on the importance of education in decreasing vehicle miles travelled and lifting public transit as shared mobility. They discussed possibility of 50% electrification as a goal for Village vehicles and connecting with other communities to evaluate feasibility of electric vehicle usage for Public Works' tasks.

The subteam representative for Waste Management, Member Weiss, reported on Assistant Village Manager Madeline Farrell's presentation. Ms. Farrell provided an overview of residential services offered by Northbrook and mentioned that the Village is contracted with Advanced Disposal until 2024. The subteam spoke on incentivizing recycling and reducing barriers to residents through better communication and reporting on how much is actually recycled. The group liked the idea of reaching out to people who do not recycle to understand what causes this. Member Weiss advocated for better communication to all Northbrook residents, as the information Ms. Farrell provided does not account for industrial, commercial, or multi-family unit recycling services. Lastly, Member Weiss reported that Northbrook withdrew from Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County 20 years ago due to the high costs of membership, but suggested revisiting the possibility of membership due to the benefits the Village would receive from this agency in terms of increasing transparency and reducing landfill waste.

Trustee Ross reported for Village staff members Swati Pandey and Tessa Murray's discussion on Local Food Systems, such as the farmers' market and community gardens. The subteam liked all recommendations presented in paleBLUEdot's baseline assessment, and wants to build upon these goals with expanding education on soil degradation and programs already in place that the Village offers, such as free mulch or rain garden reimbursements. Trustee Ross added that organic gardening resources from the nearby Chicago Botanic Garden should be utilized. Member Lederer wanted to expand the scope of local food beyond garden produce to include food processed in Northbrook. He also mentioned hydroponics as a year-round food source that could be developed further in industrial areas of the Village.

Breakout Round 2

Member Albrecht represented the Building Energy subteam, reporting that Building Official Jackie Clawson spoke on the building codes and building ordinances that were last updated in 2018 by the International Code Council. Northbrook has begun adopting codes to align with sustainable practices through electric vehicle readiness and streamlining solar panel permits with SolSmart certification. Member Albrecht added that through these initial steps already taken by the Village, Northbrook successfully reached the goal of 20% reduction in building energy by 2020. The group discussed that the green building incentive ordinance may be underutilized because it centers LEED

certification, and this could be developed by considering other green frameworks. Member Albrecht mentioned Energy Star's retrofitting certification as a possibility. The subteam agreed that LED's are an easy way to achieve energy reduction in buildings. Also, the subteam underscored that these goals must make economic sense for commercial and industrial stakeholders. Member Albrecht hoped for more information on retro-commissioning and switching building energy from natural gas sources as resources for the Building and Energy subteam.

Member Kole spoke as a representative for the Climate Health and Safety subteam and said that Ms. Kohlstedt spoke on Northbrook's Affordable Housing Plan and goals of improving education on emergency preparedness through multiple communication platforms. The group discussed re-wording some of the recommended goals and defining Northbrook's vulnerable populations based on age and health. They hope to reduce flooding in Northbrook to eventually eliminate the issue.

Breakout Round 3

Member Rago spoke for Deputy Director of Public Works Matt Morrison's presentation on Water and Wastewater. He overviewed Northbrook's 20 million gallon a day water treatment plant, in which Northbrook sells treated lake water, and the paid service in which our wastewater is collected and conveyed to the north branch of the Chicago River by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. Goals for water conservation include a reduction in drinking water and wastewater generation of 7.5% each by 2030 if natural improvements of water fixtures in industry are executed. The group raised concerns about increased intensity and frequency of flood events, and proposed adding retention ponds to property downtown that will only drain when low flow conditions return after large storm events. They also spoke on expanding incentives for individual property owners to reduce runoff through rain gardens with native plants accustomed to soaking up more water than ornamental gardens and lawns.

As a representative for Tree Canopy and Greenspace, Member Poupart detailed Mr. Hamill's presentation starting with the 2001 Tree Preservation Ordinance in which trees removed for development must be replaced. Additionally, with the 50/50 Tree Planting Program, 79 trees are added to Village parkways each year on average through collaboration with Public Works and private citizens. With this and the 50/50 Rain Garden reimbursement program, the responsibility of maintenance is put on citizens. The group supported developing incentives for green roofs and permeable paver lots.

Member Robson spoke for the Climate Economy subteam and summarized Director of Development and Planning Services Tom Poupart's review of where Village revenue comes from and how it relates to climate change. The presentation stated since the Village has space for development, Northbrook's opportunistic economy is positioned to attract green businesses and invigorate a growing workforce for the renewable energy industry. The subteam agreed that paleBLUEdot's recommendations are a good place to start but the last two points on marketplace climate resilience and financial climate implementation need to be adapted to Northbrook's situation for our solution and remediation plan.

Strategy Screening Criteria Selection

Mr. Redmond explained that the members should take 15 minutes for voting on which criteria to select that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of adopting different climate actions for Northbrook. Each member will vote for their top five criteria options from the list available at the provided link. Then, members will vote on how many screening criteria Northbrook will use. Mr. Redmond explained that the larger number of criteria used to screen each action, the more time it will take to review each proposed action.

After 15 minutes of deliberation, members voted to use four screening criteria: impact of implementation, support, potential for success, and affordability / overall cost to benefit.

ACTIONFinder Tool Review and Training

Mr. Redmond reminded members to access ACTIONFinder on the team's webpage. He explained that each subteam has a shared online excel document that remains searchable, editable, and can be added or deleted from by all

subteam members. Mr. Redmond can retrieve document history if it gets deleted on accident. The purpose of this tool is to give each subteam a chance to explore potential ideas from actions already in place in other communities regionally or nationwide. Individual members can save actions they are interested in under the “Save strategy” column and share thoughts under the “Comments” column. Mr. Redmond said members should communicate with him first before adding actions to a subteam’s excel sheet that is not a subteam in which he or she belongs.

Next Steps

Mr. Redmond highlighted that team members should explore the ACTION Finder tool, “saving” actions they are interested in, and writing new actions as inspired for each subteam. Ms. Kohlstedt reminded that a follow-up email will be sent to members with all the information they need on next steps to be completed before the next meeting on January 11, 2021.

Adjourn

At this time, Ms. Kohlstedt told members any questions can be directed to her or Tessa Murray via phone or email. She adjourned the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tessa Murray
Recorder