

# Inner Core Committee

A subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council including 21 cities and towns:

Arlington • Belmont • Boston • Brookline • Cambridge • Chelsea • Everett • Lynn • Malden • Medford • Melrose • Milton • Needham • Newton • Quincy • Revere • Saugus • Somerville • Waltham • Watertown • Winthrop

## Inner Core Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 16, 9:00 - 11:00 am

Zoom

### Agenda

Climate + Clean Energy

**8:45 – 9:05 am:**                      **Join Zoom**

**9:00 – 9:25 am:**                      **Researching Resilience in Boston Harbor**

[Aaron Toffler](#), Director of Policy, Boston Harbor Now

[Paul Kirshen](#), Director, Stone Living Lab

- Sea level rise already occurring, and anticipated to increase 9"-3.5' over the next 50 years; flooding probability increases with sea level rise
- Important consideration when permitting coastal development and revising regs
- A study by Green Ribbon of feasibility of harbor-wide barrier system to protect against storm surge recommended shore-based multilayer approach
- State-level
  - Resilient MA Action Team released Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan
  - Adopted MEPA Interim Protocol on Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency
- Federal level
  - NPS service, owns considerable land in the region
- Boston Harbor Islands listed among the country's most endangered historic sites because of damage caused by climate change
- Boston Harbor Now
  - Focus
    - Waterfront Development
    - Climate Change Preparedness
    - Water Transportation
    - Boston's Working Port
  - Activities
    - Attend harbor policy forums
    - Issue waterfront development comment letters
    - Support for the Working Port
    - Convene a Climate Roundtable to support and inform policy work (ICC members are invited)
- Adaptation of the built environment
  - Accommodate – here we are
  - Protect – moving here now

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- Retreat – eventually
- Boston will use shore-based, nature-based solutions to protect the shoreline from flooding
  - Examples in East Boston and South Boston
  - How to balance these green investments with potential for gentrification
- No guidelines for nature-based features
- Stone Living Lab
  - Partnership of UMass Boston, Boston Harbor Now, NPS, City of Boston
  - Climate preparedness solutions, research, education, policy
  - Testing nature-based systems on and around Rainsford harbor island test
  - Building out a public education and community engagement program
- Ways to get involved
  - Co-create place-based science ed programs
  - Co-design experiments
  - Participate in Advisory Board
  - Join mailing list at [www.stonelivinglab.org](http://www.stonelivinglab.org), meets 3X/year
- Questions/comments
  - Regional solution is needed; who takes the lead on that?
    - Opportunity through the MMC Climate Taskforce
    - Paul suggests a study, maybe with MAPC's Environment Team
  - What are the equity implications of nature-based solutions in areas facing displacement pressures?
    - See writing by Cornell Prof Linda Shi
    - Working with NOAA and a coalition of developers and residents to figure out how to manage coastal flooding in a way that preserves affordable housing
  - Some ongoing interest in an offshore barrier

**9:25 – 9:50 am:**

## **Net Zero Stretch Code Advocacy**

[Sarah Dooling](#), Executive Director, Mass Climate Action Network

- MA has 2 codes
  - Base
  - Stretch
- DOER is the lead agency on developing the net zero stretch code that cities and towns will have the option to adopt by 2022
  - Net zero building performance standards and definition of a net zero building
  - Green Communities can opt in; those that don't, still maintain status and funding
  - DOER is required to hold at least 5 hearings in diverse locations, including one in an EJ community, beginning this fall
  - 2 phase approach
    - P1: Improve current stretch code to be not quite net zero
    - P2: Develop net zero stretch code

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- Net zero building is any building whose yearly energy consumption or load is equal to or less than the renewable energy it produces on site or offsets through purchase of renewable energy off site
  - Low embodied carbon + low operational carbon minus offsets = net zero
- Safe + affordable + 0 emissions = housing as a climate solution
  - EJ and Gateway City residents stand to gain
  - Improve indoor air quality
  - Reduce utility bills
  - Reduce GHG emissions
  - Reliable, safe energy
- Net zero = energy efficient, electrification, renewable energy
- MCAN's role
  - Educational resources
  - Technical consultation
  - Talk with local groups and local decision-makers
  - Coordinate local advocates for state-level advocacy
  - Refute misinformation
  - Accelerate opting in
- Discussion
  - Timeline for when towns can adopt? 18-month process for DOER; final proposal by late 2022, could slow down
  - Embodied carbon is looking at the full lifecycle of constructing a new building
    - Where are materials sourced? Recycle materials, green materials
    - Not related to the operational carbon in building performance
  - How to involve affordable housing advocates in conversations about the stretch code?
  - Implications for historic preservation?

**9:50 – 10:30 am:**

## **Discussion**

Regulating Clean Energy in Your Community  
*All*

- This keeps getting squeezed by good conversation with guest speakers
  - Try to limit the number of guest speakers some months
- Public meetings
  - Some have resumed in-person meetings, others canceled, waiting on the Governor
  - Future Chelsea meetings will be remote, Melrose PB meeting left open, Watertown is testing hybrid with Zoom in Council Chamber and cable access, appetite for in-person meetings in Milton, Brookline ordered special equipment for hybrid Select Board meetings (but backordered 2-3 months)

**10:30 – 11:00 am:**

## **Updates**

Legislative Update  
*Diego Huezos and Leah Robins, Government Affairs, MAPC*

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- The Governor just signed the bill on remote meetings into law!
- Capital budget, \$2.65B
  - New funding to help with repairing municipally owned roadway pavement
  - New transit infrastructure partnership program (bus lanes)
  - Share streets funded
  - Doubling of MVP program to \$21M and Green Communities to \$20M
  - Climate-ready housing program
  - Amelia Earheart dam was funded
  - Municipal ADA grant program continued
- Operating budget
  - House and Senate passed; both in conference committee
  - Top priorities
    - DLTA; House funded at \$3M, Senate did not fund it
    - Public health at \$800,000; Senate came out with \$13M
    - Community Compact; Senate funded at \$200M
    - Efficiency Regionalization Grant
- Process to develop the MAPC legislative agenda
  - MAPC meets with stakeholders, subregions, CEOs, etc. end of summer, early fall to develop priorities with consideration with what legislators are likely considering
  - Draft legislation and discuss with stakeholders
  - Similar process with MMC Coalition and North Shore Coalition
  - MC50 will shape policy agenda
  - Legislative Committee meetings on a monthly basis
  - Legislative breakfast is a chance to elevate the issues important to the ICC

FY22 Vote of the ICC Work Plan and Co-chairs  
*Karina Oliver-Milchman, ICC Coordinator, MAPC*

- Work plan passed unanimously
- Both co-chairs were unanimously re-elected