

## Lexington Climate Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee

Approved Meeting Minutes  
Values discussion  
February 29, 2008  
Police Station Guard Room

Present:

Marilyn Campbell  
Dan Jones  
JJ Krawczyk  
Jeanne Krieger  
Andy McClaine  
Katherine Moore  
Adam Sacks  
Toby Sackton

The purpose of this meeting was to develop a short statement that describes the work of our committee using our consensus on values. Everyone talked about "why I am here" in order for us to learn the underlying values of our commitment to this work (notes written on easel sheets are below). We then used that discussion to come up with the following DRAFT statement:

"The CAPC engages our community to take responsibility to be stewards of our landscape, heritage, and community connections by addressing today's crisis arising from our fossil fuel based lives. As in the past, Lexington must take action to become the change we seek so that we and our children may enjoy the safety and serenity to which we all aspire."

This statement reflects key values of responsibility, stewardship, community, and safety. It also reflects the community's ongoing commitment to take action in the face of a crisis. We expect further refinements / edits, but believe it reflects the consensus of the room.

For those who weren't there, a bit of explanation about the values statement. It is not a substitute for any policies or detailed recommendations we may put forward, but instead indicates the values that we feel must underlie all our work -- both in communicating and proposing actions. If the committee recommends something that doesn't seem in line with our values statement, then either that action is wrong or the values statement needs revision.

An example, using part of a tangential conversation from the meeting: Suppose we decide that promoting vegetable gardens in town is a good idea, especially if it is replacing space currently used for lawns. Is it proper to recommend ripping up your neighbor's lawn and planting a garden there? Ignoring the obvious legal ramifications, this action would run afoul of the "community connections" piece of the values statement. We wish to promote actions that encourage positive relationships between neighbors. So instead we might

encourage neighborhoods to come together and identify plots that everyone (especially the affected landowners) agrees would be good locations for gardens.

What follows are the notes that were jotted down on the easel paper during the meeting:

desire to make life better for current and future generations  
want to improve world

anti-waste  
current society depends on waste  
intrinsic value of trees (and other natural resources)

loss of unique environments

preservation  
species  
natural order

going back to a previous state  
has happened in a few cases (e.g., rivers)

respect, doing no harm / undoing harm

open spaces, more density where the population lives

fairness, equal access to resources

contraction and convergence

population?  
not interested in solution that "gets rid of half the people"  
education, poverty eradication

density: advantages and disadvantages  
nice to have space, but how do we feel about this privilege?  
guilt?  
responsibility  
offset by side-effects, e.g. health, asthma rates

worth of human beings, natural world

responsibility to children, grandchildren  
survival of human race  
our legacy

sense of place

what is behind sense of responsibility?

e.g. you wouldn't trash your neighbor's yard

re-think "home is your castle"

community vs. isolation

subordination of individual to community

being part of the solution

live your values

need to act out the change you want

Farmers Market - great example of living your values

humans indeed have this power over the climate

accept that responsibility

why NOT Lexington?

show that it can be done

these are extraordinary times