

CETF 3/14/22
4-5:30pm, Virtual

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84730377987?pwd=bFIVN2N0NkNsOTg3RGhRMnd3ME0yUT09>

1. Call to order: 4:02PM
2. Attendance: Erin Cough, Ruth Poland, Jen Crandall, Norm Burdzel, Brian Booher, Tobin Peacock, Kristen Murphy will be late(4:39PM), no word from Sirohi or Margaret. Millard on temporary leave.
3. Approval of [Minutes from 2/28/22](#) (V): Jen moves to approve the minutes of 2/28/22, Tobin seconds. All approve
4. Adoption of Agenda (V): Tobin moves to accept the agenda as written, Norm seconds the motion. All approve.
5. Public Comment? Mike Gurtler, Laura Berry are in attendance to provide feedback on public forum and CAP.
6. Regular Business--
 - A. Quick Updates: (~15min)
 - i. Energy Benchmarking (Brian)-- working on it, but it is confounding. Will show preliminary results. There is some missing data that needs to be filled in so we can compare 2020 to 2021. Still needs info on #2 heating oil from the high school. Info about the electric use and solar panels is also confusing. Laura says you need to get what the high school uses from Versant. Add the amount from the solar records to the Versant bill. She is willing to be a second set of eyes on this data. Also needs to confirm that transfer station has gone totally electric with heat pumps.
 - ii. Update on COA class work on action plan w/Laura Berry & Ken Cline. Review the [list of project ideas](#). Sent out a poll to the class to see what the students would be interested in. Hoping to get 3 or 4 projects going. Recycling will get addressed by the student sustainability committee. Erin: There are many defunct mills on the island (or places where mills used to be). Has anyone looked at mini-hydro-electric mills that could generate electricity? Laura: could be a great senior project. Will ask Spencer if he knows anyone interested in that (it was a pet project of his when they were students at COA). Norm: pushback from the fish folks. Laura and Erin: new micro-mills are fish friendly.
 - iii. [AmeriCorps Application](#) progress - submitted on the 22nd. When might we hear back? Jen will ask Deidre for an estimated timeline
 - B. [Community Resilience Partnership](#) (CRP)
 - i. Dept. Head self-eval - completed by Kevin & Johannah...?Ruth thinks this is done.
 - ii. Public Forum: How did it go? Thoughts? Ruth: missed having a real meeting in person to get more feedback from folks. Erin: son was home for spring break and they went through each column together. He was very interested and glad to see the level of actions we are considering. Jen gave out the link and had people say the same thing. Great options.
 1. Review feedback on action priorities
 - iii. Resolution on the Town Agenda for tomorrow (15th). Ruth submitted the most simple resolution since we already have our Climate Emergency Declaration. Kevin will not be there,

but the resolution is on the agenda. Ruth will add the top actions from the list. The Town Council will have to vote on this so we can apply for the State funding. Erin will explain this to the Town Council.

iv. Grant update...due the 22nd...review what ACTT has put together—this round will focus on EV infrastructure. For the next grant round, Ruth is investigating battery packs for the high school which would help us reduce our peak use. This would also reduce our cost from Versant. Brian: that is happening at the public works station. Norm: there are lots of variables to consider. You lose 20% of the power when you take the energy in and out of the batteries. Mike: was told by a sundog solar rep that a residential person could not install a Tesla battery pack unless they had solar panels. Brian: it is different for businesses since they have variable rates that change with the demand.

C. CAP v.2

i. Feedback for Laura, etc. Mike: participated in the presentation and thought it was informative. Took that info back to dept mtg. Number of things that overlap with their own priorities. 1. Discussion of the stretch codes. State of Maine moved to the 2015 building codes. At the end of this year we need to go to the 2021 codes (stretch). So in the works already so it doesn't make sense to go through the process for adopting it because the State will adopt it which means the Town will have to adopt it. It is quite an impact to the trades and they had a hard time meeting compliance with the codes with the last upgrade. If we wait for the State, they offer online training opportunities to help contractors understand the impact of the codes. This time the jump to 2021 codes will not be as big as the last one. EV ready building practices will be part of those codes. Ruth: my impression was that even the 2021 codes had some stretch options. Laura: Good to hear from Mike. Hadn't heard that the State was going to adopt the 2021 codes. There are appendices to those codes with stretch options. It might be worthwhile for us to discuss if we want to adopt those, but it makes sense to wait for the State. Mike: do we know if the State is planning on adopting the appendices? Laura: because they are listed as voluntary I assumed that they would be by the State as well. Mike: there are some codes that would apply to renovations as well. —Also noticed in the CAP a reference to a town-wide transportation study? Laura: we would like that to happen. Mike: it would be useful to do it as part of the comprehensive plan. But they are not going to generate a draft pan until 2023. This would be a good time to share any ideas with the comp plan committee. Also some public hearings scheduled before the fall that we could participate in. Land Use Ordinance changes happen in 3 ways: Council can initiate the process, Planning Board can initiate the process or citizens initiative. None of these options is more expeditious than another. All are lengthy: 6 months at least. Michelle would be willing to sit down with our group to help facilitate any changes we wanted to recommend. Housing density has also come up to be addressed in the last few years, for boarding houses, large parcel development with offsets for affordability and the planning board is going to review that. Bonus dwelling unit—regardless

of minimum lot size it would allow for another dwelling on the property. Also beneficial in more rural districts which normally have large lot size minimums. Anytime we discuss anything having to do with planning or codes, or even if we need feedback from a town dept, Mike is willing to attend. Laura: anytime you mess with LUO it has wide-reaching impacts that we want to keep those in mind and keep our recommendations holistic so there are no unintended impacts. We should put together a collection of changes or even a vision rather than a lot of individual changes. Mike: working with the planning board would help make changes more smoothly. Also the general public doesn't really know what the task force is doing. Getting yourselves out there and making the meetings more public would be helpful. New apartments by the Lab are very green and energy efficient and will help with housing crunch. Tobin: is it written anywhere when we will be adopting the new codes? Mike: we don't know exactly when the State will make that change. Probably before the end of the year. When I know I will post them and send the info to contractors on an email list. Ruth: hopefully we will have a staff person (SC) soon who can help implement some of the changes and get ahead of the changes for PR.

ii. Develop a timeline to bring to council? Ruth: who should we solicit feedback from? Should we send ambassadors to each department? What other steps do we want to take? Laura: it is the right time to talk about getting feedback beyond the task force. There is still some language tweaking that should happen esp around land use and housing issues. There are some processes that will overlap with things that are already happening in the town. We make recommendations to the Town but we want different groups to provide feedback like the comp plan group. Norm: if we can all have our comments to Laura by next week and then from there get it out to all the town dept and manager and public even. Jen: what do we want to do if another group is already doing something on our list? Do we want to leave those things on the plan? Norm: yes, we can change the plan to say we will support that effort instead of saying we will do that effort. Laura: yes the language in the plan should include anything we think is important to be done, even if it is already in process. Erin: as people come and go and committees change it is good to have a history of what is being done. For instance there was a transportation study done 7 years ago. It is good to have that documented and then compare to a new study.

Mike: flood resistant study has been done and was initiated by Michelle Gagnon. All key staff were involved in that. Can get a copy to anyone who wants one. Erin and Laura say yes please! Ruth: want to include the gantt chart in the CAP.... see link below.

iii. Current CAP Actions Timeline

iv. Review the [Gantt Chart from CAP v.1](#) Any thing that has been started or is in the works can be documented on here. It is a nice way to see it all in one place and get a sense of how quickly some of this will

unfold. And it probably needs to be updated! Laura: it would be helpful to take feedback from CAP and highest votes from public forum and add those actions to this. Then get to agreement on that list and bring it to the town manager. Also, if we make it a more robust list we can bring it to the public with explanations etc. It would get us to more like a 20 page CAP.

7. Review & assign “to do” list. Have a final check on what Laura has put together. Discuss how we can get this in front of other groups and how to get the word out more publicly. Norm: get to the CAP 2.0 and finalize it. Ruth will check to see how much more \$\$ we have in our budget to hire Laura for another 5 hours. **Ruth makes a motion that we allow another 5 hours for Laura to make the document more robust and add some framing. Brian seconds. All in favor.**

8. Adjournment: Brian moves to adjourn, Tobin seconds. 5:29PM

Current “To Do” List:

Old stuff To Do:

- Connect with Park & Rec and Cons. Comm. to find commonalities in our plan and the Open Space plan - Millard
- Highlight items from the Capitol Improvement Plan (CIP) that we need to address & bring to the next meeting.
- Better public outreach - website?

CAP Timeline: