

## Task Force on the Climate Emergency

Agenda for meeting 6/28/2021, 3:30 PM.(note we now meet at 4pm)

1. Call to order: Jen Crandall, Tobin Peacock, Erin Cough, Kristen Murphy, Norm Burdzell, Brian Booher, Cornell Knight, Ruth Poland online,4:04pm Margaret Jeffrey
2. Approval of Minutes-- Tobin moves, and Norm seconds, all approve
3. Adoption of Agenda--Ruth moves to amend the agenda to put ghg audit notes first. Also only bullet 1 under C will be covered. Jen seconds. All approve. Brian moves that we remove B as it will be part of the Action plan discussion. Tobin seconds. All approve. Brian moves to accept agenda as amended. Norm seconds. All approve.
4. Public Comment. No public in attendance.
5. Regular Business
  - A. Continuing work on Climate Action Plan
    - i. Review existing document--Tobin: we are bringing 3 things together: a ghg audit; climate action plan; sustainability director. They all mesh together. They can inform the headings in Climate Action Plan. Let's focus on scope 1 and scope 2 of the ghg audit rather than some of the other items that we included like food waste and tourism. Let's get a doable plan going first before we include these other items. Narrow it all down to municipal stuff. Margaret: clarified Tobin's remarks and added public outreach and education. Erin: stay flexible with the LandUse since that is in the works. Jen: if we focus on the recs of the ghg audit then we can show the TC that a sustainability coordinator can address the other stuff for the Town. Margaret: let's make sure we don't lose those other aspects. They should stay as part of the conversation if specific circumstances arise. Tobin: make these other areas as part of the plan to be addressed in the future so they don't get lost. Brian: are we proposing to have the ghg emission of the town be the initial focus of our work?Do we now cut and paste? Tobin: yes, cut and paste a new draft starting July 1, 2021.
    - ii. Proposed schedule to completion: Margaret: likes the timeline and thinks it is feasible. Ruth: I don't think we'll be ready. We need to discuss the logistics of public input. Also need to unpack the plan for design thinking. Brian: let's pick a goal on the action plan and walk through the process. The goals are too big and represent a huge amount of work. Tobin: the expectation that the task force can do the work (beyond making recommendations) is not reasonable. Erin: that needs to be said but we need to realize that the budget is too late for next year. We are looking for July 2022. If we show the Council what needs to be done they will understand that we need a coordinator. Norm: let's make 2 documents: what the task force does and what a SC would do? Ruth: how do we get public input? Tobin: the more public buy-in the better. Jen: isn't there a process? Ruth: I suggest that someone takes this on outside this meeting time. Norm: how do you

filter the input? Erin: you need to listen to them and then get the “why”. We need to hear the other side and get their input. Erin: let’s get feedback on just the parts that we were talking about earlier (scope 1). Ruth: I am not comfortable with our plan yet to be presented. Let’s look at what other town’s have done. If we don;t have a physical gathering with a presentation we won’t get the kind of public understanding that will promote buy in. Margaret: can we start with a poll with a date for a workshop? Brian: I am for getting public input but what would we ask given the scope of the current plan which is restricted to municipal sources. It is going to slow us down. Erin: good segway. Let’s look at the action plan and see what/who is needed for input. Brian: maybe we invite specific people in for specific goals.

1. **June 28 - overall review and task assignments**--Jen and Tobin will look at it: how others have gathered input and will come up with questions for a poll. Tobin will take the action plan and will make it into 2 docs as mentioned earlier. Norm: Let’s do a workshop before our next meeting. Brian: we can do a zoom meeting until the end of July as long as we make it a legal gathering. July 6, 7pm zoom to do action plan workshop.

2. July 12 - content review/ design thinking (what does wild success look like?)
  3. July 26 - public input/department head feed back
  4. August 9 - public input/department head feed back
  5. August 23 - review and incorporation of public feedback
  6. September 13 - content review
  7. September 21 - Final review
  8. September 22 - Present to council
    - iii. Schedule work sessions with more than 2 people as needed.
- B. Review JD for Sustainability Coordinator.
- C. GHG Audit
  - i. Review audit and present to council--- a few changes and updates to the audit that Spencer first presented. Ruth is showing a presentation that she would give to the Town Council. Simply showing the data of the benchmarking reporting. CO2 emissions by fuel type. With adjustments, electricity is a bit higher than initially. Getting to renewable energy sources is our big goal. Green electricity, biomass, etc. CO2 emissions by department. Sewer and Water treatment the highest. Transportation is next, then CES. Everything else is much smaller. We will focus much of our energies on transportation. Final slide is specific buildings . Huge part of CES emissions is distillate oil. Water/sewer is heating with distillate oil. This report doesn’t include high school yet. Brian: the more I dig in the more questions I have. The context is important because some of the graphs are by fuel type which is different from the graph for the buildings. Ruth: we need to keep it

simple and big picture. Norm: what about a slide that focuses on transportation? Erin: it would be helpful to know which departments/vehicles are using the most so that specific, targeted decisions can be made by TC. Also, what is the goal of the presentation? Is it to show the benchmark? The more detailed you get the more it will inform policy, but we aren't there yet. Just start with the benchmark so that Council sees what is used and get them excited to see the action plan. Ruth: that is my idea. We invite them to ask questions and then show a more detailed presentation that comes with recommendations. Brian: and we need to keep up the data gathering so we can see that changes. Tobin: we may not be able to get too much detail on which vehicle uses what. Ruth: it is broken down by department. Highway and police are the highest.

Ruth moves that she makes this presentation to the Council at their next available meeting. Margaret: could you add the spreadsheet that breaks it down by department? Ruth: I can be able to answer questions and will bring out that data as they ask. Erin will ask for this to be put on the next available meeting either July 20 or in August. All approve. Thank you Ruth!

- ii. Add 2020-2021 data for tracking
- iii. Hire an Americorps Vista Volunteer for a year to assist with sustainability efforts (update GHG audit, other?)
  - D. Sustainability Coordinator discussion.
    - i. RFP samples from Jennifer & Brian & Millard.
    - ii. Speak with Sustainability Coordinator for municipality.
    - iii. Full time or contract?
    - iv. Jill reports to council on need for this position.
  6. Items for next meeting. How to gather public input? Report out. Millard report out on SC. Continue on the schedule for the action plan. CIP budget language in the plan. On 26th we have the CES consultant coming in to present. Table Higgins Pit info until later. Election of officers.
  7. Task Force Comments. Margaret: Do we as members of the task force or individuals want to come to the July 7 meeting to speak out in favor of the Higgins Pit solar array. Brian we did make the recommendation to the TC. Margaret: this would be an opportunity for the public to hear that recommendation.
  8. Adjournment: Norm moves, Margaret seconds. All approve.

#### Future Work:

- A. Tourism carbon impact
  - i. Cruise ships
  - B. Climate Justice-- acknowledge impact of climate change and its disproportional impact on lower socio-economic groups and the intersectionality with other crises like racial equity.

Climate change impacts developing countries exponentially more than developed countries and the developing countries are not the ones benefiting from the use of fossil fuels etc.

- C. Ground mounted solar array.
- D. Community composting.
- E. EV chargers
- F. Town based incentives for new buildings or renovations to exceed code requirements for efficiency, build electric and/or incorporating solar into design. Tax break? Cash back? What could the town actually do to incentivize? Could you forgive the first year of property taxes on a new build if there a solar array of a certain size or all electric house or passive house level insulation? A few thousand dollars might be enough to encourage some best practices.
- G. Public Outreach
- i. Engage the BH Chamber of Commerce