

Task Force on the Climate Emergency
Minutes for meeting 8/23/2021, 4 PM. (In-person)

1. Call to order: 4:07pm Ruth Poland, Jen Crandall, Kristen Murphy, Brian, Millard, Margaret, Tobin will not make it, Sirohi cannot make it, Norm Burdzell. No word from Erin.
2. Approval of 8/9 Minutes: Millard moves to approve, Kristen seconds. All approve.
3. Adoption of Agenda: Jen moves to adopt, Millard seconds. All approve.
4. Public Comment? Several guests, David Gibson is new Director of Energy at COA, Cali Martinez, student at COA; Dawn Burgess, new sustainability coordinator for the high school.
5. Regular Business
 - A. Quick Updates:
 - i. Town electricity contracts and when we can change them (Erin?)
 - ii. David Gibson & Dawn Burgess introductions (Ruth) Dawn: brand new to position, mandated by new Project Legacy: a student initiated commitment by school board to become carbon neutral by 2050 and improve climate education. Will begin benchmarking energy usage at high school and get any help from us. David: half time teaching and half time to eliminate fossil fuel use by 2030 on campus. 10 years experience. Worked for ReVision Energy for last 3 years. Worked on State's green bank initiative to allow low interest rate loans for low income folks to switch homes over to heat pumps and energy retrofits. Ruth: anyone have questions on how we can coordinate? Margaret: Dawn, are you using the initial benchmark info from Spencer? Yes, Ruth shared it. 5 different meters that are not all easy to read or track. Brian is going to do ghg audit for this year and was going to include the high school. Perhaps they can share that data. Brain: Spencer has identified provider for biofuel: coastal energy is a good source. Also Dead River. Ask him. Dawn will also connect with Nancy Thurlow who is about to put in a bid for fuel and Dawn will make sure she considers biofuel. Norm: don't forget that the high school is buying its electricity from Sundog Solar and some from Versant.

Brian could be able to direct interested students to us and use us for a resource if there is anything we can offer his classes/students.
 - iii. Quick review of timeline & goals--see below
 - B. Continuing work on Climate Action Plan
 - i. Outside "editor": how to format this (work/study? #hours? goals?, etc)
 1. Cali Martinez (COA student) introduction (Millard)--4th year student who has worked for Millard a bunch and worked on the building committee for the new building at COA, worked

for MD365 goals and objectives statement for affordable housing. Cali: this does interest me and need to see if it fits into fall schedule. Can't do it as an independent study. Ruth: how much time would you have to put toward this? Cali: needs to make a to do list before being able to commit.

2. Possible tasks: Prioritized.
 - a. Review dept. Head feedback and incorporate key pieces # 1.
 - b. Compare our CAP to others & develop a list of notes for each section of things to consider adding or adjusting #5
 - c. Edit for cohesiveness & flow#2
 - d. Add more to context, such as town specs, etc?--#4 put this last if there is time available.
 - e. Compare & coordinate with the Conservation Commission's Open Space Plan draft (should we reach out to this group?) #3

We need to give direction as to what we want the final outcome to be. Brian: this is the big struggle. What comes first? We hoped to have a draft by Nov 13 to send to the Town council. Norm: can we make it an assignment to do by next week? Ruth: that is the work that I hoped an editor could do. Jen: we need to avoid going overboard comparing to other plans. We decided to make a short term list of recommendations to the Town. Cali: I need to know what you want me to get out of other plans and what format you are looking for. Kristen: Portland's is 300 pages and not a light read. We need to look at communities that are similar to our size. Brian: it is scope of effort. We have been meeting every other week for a while now and this is more time than we can put into it. We have waffled on whether to hire a sustainability coordinator or do we write a CAP. Which comes first? It would be nice to have someone take the lead on the plan but that person will have a lot to say about what goes into the plan. I'll recognize what we need when I see it. Ruth: yes, look at other plans to skim for ideas that we haven't included. It is hard to define. Millard: an editor also just needs to make it sound coherent. It doesn't flow. An editor could clean that up. Ruth: perhaps we could prioritize our tasks for the editor and then add more as Cali (or an editor) has time. Then we can focus on a sustainability coordinator. Norm: we could also just say that this is a framework/outline and then the Town can farm out a climate action plan to a professional group. Margaret: so glad we talked with the dept heads and we should continue the conversation because they are the ones who will really make it happen.

Ruth: how do we hire an editor? If over \$1000 we need to ask the Town Council. If we offer \$20/hr that will give us 50 hours worth of an editor. We can give her 20 hours to start and see how far she gets. Brian: we also have other people who have offered to edit. They could work with her or we could hire others. We could ask for proposals. Norm will go to Woodward and Kern, and Brian will ask Jill Weber how long it would take her to look at and edit the document. We can look at them all and how we can leverage them all for a comprehensive plan. ??? Ruth will ask Cornell how to hire someone.

3. How might we also engage with Jill Weber's "Material Research" group? Others? (ACTT currently unavailable but would like to help in the future). See above.
 - ii. 4 Town Survey questions (Tobin & Brian) Brian handed out a printed sheet of questions/possible survey questions. Norm: we need to give people options of how to pay for it. Also some personal questions? How much would you be willing to pay? Would you pay for green power if it was more expensive? Do you already? Etc. Kristen: better to have a, b, c, d options and then comment section. Don't mention the Town. Just ask if they would pay more for changes in their own home.
 - iii. Work on Incorporating dept. Head feedback - process: summarize interview & add commentary to CAP document as necessary--see above
6. Items for next meeting.
7. Final Comments?
 - A. Move Oct. 11 (Indigenous People's Day) meeting to Tues. the 12th? didn't get to
 - B. Review & assign "to do" list--didn't get to.
8. Adjournment--Kristen moves to adjourn, Brian seconds. All approved.

To Do:

- Send questions to Nina St. Germain--Brian will talk with her and continue to edit the questions along the lines of the group discussion
- Look into hiring an Americorps VISTA - what are the necessary steps? (Jen Crandall is on it!)
- Pursue data collection for GHG audit with Sarah (Brian)
- Highlight items from the Continuing Improvement Plan (CIP) that we need to address & bring to next meeting.

CAP Possible Timeline:

Sept 13th - Hire(?) an editor to help with formatting & compare to other CAPs & dept. Head feedback--Millard asked Nina St Germain for any results of polls already done regarding recycling etc. No real info in what she shared. We will send Nina new questions for our own polls and survey results. But we will need 4-6 weeks from when we send out the questions so will need to move that ahead.

Sept 20th - Review & incorporate poll results

Oct 12th - Check in w/editor's work & "Community members to review CAP (?)"

Oct 25th - Edits to CAP due - review

Nov 8th - Final Review of CAP "Part 1:"

Nov 16th - Present "Part 1" to Council