

Task Force on the Climate Emergency  
Minutes for meeting 3/22/2021, 3:30 PM.

1. Call to order: 3:31PM Jen Crandall, Millard Dority, Brian Booher, Sirohi Kumar, Jill Goldthwait, Cornell Knight, Margaret Jeffery, Tobin Peacock, Kristin Murphy (Ruth Poland cannot make it today), Norm Burdzel.
2. Approval of Minutes: Jill moves for the minutes to be approved, Jen seconds. Jen: yes, Millard abstains, Sirohi: yes, Jill: yes, Tobin: yes, Margaret: yes, Brian: yes.
3. Adoption of Agenda: Jen moves to adopt agenda as presented; Jill seconds. Jen: yes, Margaret: yes, Millard: yes, Sirohi: yes, Jill: yes, Tobin: yes, Brian: yes.
4. Public Comment. none at this time
5. Regular Business
  - A. Continuing work on Climate Action Plan--teams report out on progress on various sections. Homework is to add who is responsible (sustainability coordinator or task force).
  - B. ACTT presentation on Connected Communities Project-Beth Woolfolk. Dept of Energy grant. 9 partners including COA. 4 year grant is to develop a connecting grid that is resilient and reliable for the integration of green energy including Higgins Pit solar farm project. This solar farm has the potential of 3 Megawatts of solar power. Needs ordinance for free standing solar panels. This will be on Nov 2021 ballot to make this change. June 2 town meeting will be first opportunity for citizens to make comments on the plan. Margaret says the task force can promote this and advocate for it. We as a task force can help by coming up with specific language to present to the LU/planning board. Jill recalls that the TC asked planning board to change the land use so that solar could be used as primary purpose and not as auxiliary use of the land. Millard who is on planning board has not heard a word on this change. Specific language for this change needs to be ready by April 7th to be on the June 2 town meeting agenda to call a public hearing. The vote will take place at the Nov ballot. Mike Gurtler has been hired as an assistant to Angie for code enforcement and would be the person to get this language to. Michelle Gagnon has said that they are pushing forward the language change to get it ready for the April deadline. Jill expresses concern that we need to keep our efforts focused on our own agenda so we don't get sidetracked. Brian: there doesn't seem to be anything for us to do at this time as a task force. Margaret feels that this task force should be available for this kind of action for the town and do what we can. Jill suggests we ask if there is anything we can do for them to help get this done. Margaret moves that we make it known to planning board that we are available if there is anything that we can do to assist in getting the language written for this issue. Millard thinks our support should come after the language is written by Michelle and team and is presented to public in June. Brian moves us on as there is no action for us to take at this time.
  - C. Anne Kozak proposal for class project. "Communication to Professional Scientists and the lay public". What, for whom, by whom. Brian suggests 2

members work with Anne directly. Jill is willing to be one of those people. Topics could be something from our list of action plans/goals. The class could put together a green handbook. Millard is willing to be the second person. Brian moves that Millard and Jill serve as liaisons between Anne Kozak's class on Communicating Science and the task force. Jen seconds. Margaret, Jen, Millard, Jill, Norm, Kristin, Tobin, Sirohi and Brian all vote YES. Millard and Jill will work with Anne and report back with topics that the class agrees on.

- D. Coastal Grants Available for Municipal and Regional projects. Proposals due 4/15/21. Margaret and Ruth met and thought that the solar project would be a perfect place to apply this. 4/15 is an aggressive timeline. \$20-50K. It may be offered again in the future. Ruth followed up with someone who is on the team offering the grant and has not received a response yet. It makes sense to do a bit of research now to prepare for a future application.
  - E. Ordinance change allowing a freestanding solar array-discussed in earlier section
- Items for next meeting. Continue work on action plan. Electric permit fee for EV chargers. Electricity standards; CIP budget language that reflects sustainability and ghg emissions. GHG audit and what next. Planning board language hot off the press for the solar farm. Task Force Comments. Tobin: can we set up a way to share information that might not pertain exactly with the agenda for the task force but is of interest. Margaret agrees and says that email is not the best way to do that. Is there a way to set up a portal or another place to send these info. Millard says we did a great job cleaning up the action plan in the last couple of weeks. Adjournment: Margaret moves to adjourn. Norm seconds. Margaret, Jen, Millard, Jill, Norm, Kristin, Tobin, Brian all vote yes.

#### 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