

CETF 7/24/23

4-5:30pm, Town Hall, Council Chambers

1. Call to order: 4:02PM
2. Attendance: Jen Crandall (Jen re-upped), Ruth Poland, Mary Ann Handel (new to task force), (Margaret decided not to re-up since we had new folks interested), Brian Booher, Tobin Peacock, Linneah and Kaitlyn are both still away for the summer. Gary Friedmann (new task force member from Town Council) Norm Burdzell. No word from Ezra Sassman (new member)
3. Approval of Minutes from [6/26/23](#) (Vote): no quorum last time
4. Adoption of Agenda (Vote): Jen moves, Brian seconds. All approve
5. Public Comment:
6. Regular Business
 - A. GMRI Resiliency Assessment planning
 - i. What would we hope to get out of this work with GMRI? How will this differ from the vulnerability training in the Fall? Steph Sun and Hannah Beranis. Ruth: we have had some resiliency work done in the past but no town staff members are here to inform us on what was done before. What would we get from working with GMRI? Hannah: Scientist in the climate center, have done a look at the flood risk of Bar Harbor. Steph: working with ACTT to look at Tremont for flood risk, social vulnerability, public health etc. Also a public engagement piece to gauge priorities. Training in the fall for resilience planning workshop, as well as community engagement and setting priorities for assessment and planning. Also have a community science program to gather info on sea level rise. Ruth: so, go through the training first and then do the vulnerability training? Yes! Steph: helpful to start from a values based placed to get everyone on the same page . Mary Ann: the Park has done a lot on climate change planning. Where do they fall in with this and how do we work with them? Good question. Steph: the community training is really working with communities and municipalities. However, climate change knows no boundaries so it is good to keep connections open. Ruth: our town has looked at infrastructure and impacts of flooding. It is interesting that you are looking at social vulnerabilities and community impact. Gary, do you know what has been done? Tobin: Found it. Done in 2021. Just forwarded it to Steph and will send to Task Force. Interested in what overlaps there might be. Hannah: you might look at salt water intrusion into septic or wells; heat; invasive species.. Bar Harbor has a pretty steep coast but bridge might be impacted. That might be taken on by the State. However having citizen scientists out during high water times to take water levels could be really cool. Similar to High Tides project at Schoodic. "Landscape of Change Project" on MDI Historical Society website. Recommendations that come out of a report might include education and outreach etc not just more

infrastructure fixes. For the training, when and who should be involved? It will be happening in the Fall (late Sept early Oct) It is meant to be a cross section of the town citizenry. They will get more info from Gayle when we get closer to the date. Ruth: how is the Tremont project similar/different from Rockport project? Hannah: just got funded and not a part of it. Brian: Comp Plan needs to be informed by the vulnerability assessment. Jen: the consultants for the Comp Plan did say they looked at the flood data when they made their recommendations about growing the housing in Hulls Cove etc. Misha: Yes, but...there needs to be a meeting with the committees and the Comp Plan to see if the goals and strategies still make sense. Ruth: do you think GMRI will be looking at climate impacts beyond sea level rise? Hannah: yes. Bringing on a ghg expert and a geomorphologist expert as well. Gary: Task Force mission should be focused on mitigation....Ruth: YES! This is really our first time talking about response. We usually focus on mitigation. :) Gary: Tremont is the most threatened on the island, and Bar Harbor has a couple things that are weighing on us-intensity of storms which triggered multimillion dollar upgrade of sewer/stormwater system. Erosion on carriage roads and our traffic roads. We are due for a major hurricane. We need to make sure we are prepared with emergency response. Would like to see the Town take this stuff on because it is more than this group can handle and have the task force focus more on mitigation. MaryAnn: we need to have the two entities (park and town) working together to take responsibilities for response to climate events.

- ii. Do we want to do a climate vulnerability assessment with GMRI? Do we want to wait until after we have done the vulnerability training? Brian: sees our role as recommending to various departments to attend the training and pay for the assessment if they want the info. Norm: agrees. Ruth, Jen and Tobin want to wait to make any recommendations about the assessment until after the training. All agree. Our next step is to think about who we want to attend in the training. Should include more folks than the town staff. We need clarity from Gayle Bonus from GMRI.
- iii. Ted Koffman here from the Conservation Commission: needs more members. Ruth: how can our groups work together. Perhaps as the task force meets its goals it can morph into a committee that melds into Conservation Committee?? Or other?

B. Project Updates & Planning

- i. CAP Updates update
 - 1. Ruth has reached out to Comp Plan group to present what we have so far to both inform their process and request feedback on CAP 2.0. There will be a meeting in the fall to get together to discuss climate change and how the Comp

Plan has incorporated that info. Ruth has started to merge the two CAP plans and the feedback we got from the public.

- ii. EV Charger Installation update-next Thursday Ruth will mee with JB from ACTT, Kevn Buck from Tremont and Phil L from Mt Desert to work out details. We need to reach out to parking committee, town council, Bethany, and find out their thoughts on these recommendations. We need to move forward with this before the money expires. How do the decisions get made when so many people are involved? Charge Point will charge the Town \$2500 a year for monitoring. The best way is to use a metering system and charge more per hour. Perhaps we can just ask Sarah to make it happen since it is a financial issue. These meters should be on 24/7. Ruth: we should consider financial impacts on residents...let locals charge at night for a reduced cost...we can get creative with the details.
 - iii. Plan for next Drive EV event–ACTT wanted to do something this fall on National EV day. Seems like that is the time to do an event with them. Tried to make it bigger. Aleksandra will look to include it in Climate Solutions Jamboree which will take place at COA.
 - iv. ICLEI progress update- Emerson Jeffrey might be willing to do some work for us on this as a consultant.
 - v. Climate Ambassadors program for town staff and volunteers in the fall - next steps? Contact Johannah/Naomi to make a plan? Aleksandra (intern) is working on it. One for residents and one for elem students, and one for Town staff. Will happen in fall. Michelle Gagnon might be a good person to ask for ideas of what town staff might need for training.
 - vi. Sustainability Coord. Hiring - probably pushed back again due to the need to restart the Town Manager search. Continuing to work with Maine Municipal Organization to continue searching. In the meantime perhaps we can use some meeting time to plug in data to get the audit up to date. Have a workshop day to move forward. Brian will propose a date and location.
- C. Terms & Officers (Vote) Brian nominates Ruth to continue as Chair (as long as she doesn't feel like she is doing too much). Jen seconds. All in favor. Ruth nominates Tobin, Norm seconds. All in favor. Ruth nominates Jen to continue as secretary. Brian seconds. All in favor.

7. Closing

- A. Review & assign "to do" list. Ruth will update the CAP draft. Jen will double check group email list to include new members. Brian will propose a date and place for data entry workshop. Norm will call about EV charger hardware lead times. Ruth will email group after meeting on Thursday re charger placement and details.
- B. Reminder: we meet only on the 4th Monday in August. Now that we have new people, should we look at when we meet again? Mary Ann will not be here on the 4th but is willing to edit the draft of the revised CAP.
- C. Any Additional Public Comment?
 - 1. Adjournment: Jen moves to adjourn, Norm seconds. All in favor. 5:33PM

“To Do” List:

- August Meeting: Invite CES and Beth Woolfolk from ACTT to talk with us about Community Owned Utility. Try to figure out if & how we might help educate citizens about it.
- NKB addition: Planning for next Drive EV (Sept. 22-Oct. 1) event...<https://driveelectricweek.org/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=7fd9cc86-d749-4e90-a6f7-21d945afc63f>
 - Could this coincide with the EV event planned by ACTT?