

Task Force on the Climate Emergency
Minutes for meeting 7/26/2021, 4:00 PM.

1. Call to order: 4:05PM Millard and Margaret unable to attend, Sirohi, Jen, Brian, Norm, Erin, Kristen, Tobin on his way, Ruth hopes to get here late.
2. Approval of Minutes: Kristen moves to accept minutes, Erin seconds. Discussion: did minutes get to Liz? All in favor.
3. Adoption of Agenda: Brian moves that we move the GHG audit to end of agenda. All approve. Kristen moves to accept the agenda as amended. Tobin seconds. All in favor.
4. Public Comment.
5. Regular Business
 - A. CES (Competitive Energy Services) presents on power options for town. July 26. We'll need Zoom set up so CES can participate remotely. Chris Brook and Charlie Agnew will speak to us about the possibility of the Town using them for renewable energy. They are used by the Lab and highly recommended by Norm. They work throughout Maine and New England. How grid work: Brown (fossil fuels) and Green (renewable) energy all goes into the grid. A certain amount in N.E. must be from renewable due to a compliance obligation. 1 MWh from renewables = 1 REC. Some go into grid as part of compliance, some are bought by volunteer individuals. Brian asks about Maine's power vs New England's. Maine's % of Green is lower than NE. Charlie has actually found that Maine has more renewables than the rest of NE. There are different levels to look at it from, but in the end BH could offset 100% of its carbon emissions through this program. It is all about accounting.
Maine State law requires 80% emissions reduction by 2050. 1600MWh renewables. This will impact us even if we (BH) do nothing. More green energy will need to be generated to meet each State's RPS agreements: offshore wind, Hydro-Quebec for Mass., solar etc. Maine has Class 1 or 1A RECs which are increasing in value.
We need to decide how much a REC is worth to us (cost of ton of CO2 avoided)? Should we invest the money into energy efficiency, electrification and EVs? How do we procure RECs? Net Energy Billing Credits is from Ampion or local solar projects. Not the same as RECs. REcommended: RECs plus Net Energy Billing Credits.
Erin asks could CES help the Town decide if the solar farm is a financially feasible and how to move forward on it. Answer: absolutely, but there might be better options since solar construction is very expensive here. Tobin asks about 30% discount as a non-profit? Investment tax credit.
 - B. Continuing work on Climate Action Plan. Review milestones – where are we at? Brain brings up timeline. We said we would gather dept head feedback. Some conversations have been had and notes sent out. We could discuss at next meeting. Ruth and Sirohi sent out suggested next steps. Finish gathering input, comparing to other town's action plans, get public input, finalize plan and present. Tobin: can we get someone to help us do the comparison? Ruth: on

board of ACTT with Margaret. ACTT also has a program to help organizations to do this kind of work. They are going to be working with Mt Desert to help develop a plan. Perhaps there could be some cost sharing and working with them. Norm: feels like it is a valid offer. Brian suggests we put it out to bid. Jen: is that ever going to happen? Who writes up the bid? Who do we send it out to? Tobin: can we reach out to 2 or 3 other groups as well as ACTT to see if there are options that meet our timeline? Norm: there may be a few folks out there. Let's see who is out there. Erin: should we make a deadline? Yes, by next meeting Norm and Tobin will try to get some names together. Ruth will ask ACTT. We will vote next meeting when we know what can be offered. Tobin: in the meantime we should continue to look at other town's action plans and see what ours is missing. Brian: We can all keep working on the plan in Suggestion mode.

C. GHG Audit – Notes from Town Council presentation--Ruth: it was late and lots of other stuff on agenda. Well received. Beth Woolfolk suggested developing an RFP for Higgins Pit and it was accepted. Also, once new CES building gets built can we update our audit to show decrease in ghg emissions? Erin:the Council would like the slides sent to them so they can digest the information and would like a whale group meeting at some point. Ruth will send those slides. Brian: we need to update it for next fiscal year. Who will do it? It makes sense for the financial person to keep it going and update the tool. Ruth: David Gibbons took over SPencers job at COA and could help until we get a sustainability coordinator. Brain would do it using a subscription tool.

D. Sustainability Coordinator discussion. Table for tonight.

- i. RFP samples from Jennifer & Brian & Millard.
- ii. Speak with Sustainability Coordinator for municipality.
- iii. Full time or contract?
- iv. Council rep reports to council on need for this position.

6. Items for next meeting.

7. Task Force Comments.

8. Adjournment: need to adjourn for another meeting. Erin moves and there is a second.

All agree.

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