

CETF 9/25/23

4-5:30pm, Town Hall, Conference Room or Auditorium

1. Call to order: 4:03PM
2. Attendance: Jen Crandall, Ezra Sassman, Mary Ann Handel, Brian Booher, Ruth Poland, Norm is out of town and Gary can't make it, Linneah and Kaitlyn are both unavailable. Tobin Peacock arrived at 4:09PM.
3. Approval of Minutes from [9/11/23](#) (Vote): Mary Ann votes to approve the minutes, Ezra seconded. All in Favor (Brian abstained as he was not here)
4. Adoption of Agenda (Vote): Jen moves to approve the agenda, Brian seconded.
5. Public Comment: none

6. Updates & Brief Decision Items

- A. Ruth's conversation with Cornell—didn't think it was his job to hire a sustainability coordinator. Gary seemed to think it was part of his role. Was there a miscommunication? In terms of Higgins Pit, he didn't think it would be helpful to hire an expediter. They have already made lots of progress. Bethany, Sarah, SunDog Solar and ACTT are meeting weekly and actively working on the project. They have had a neighborhood meeting, and are waiting for a quote from Sundog Solar and the tree buffer, impact study from Versant that was due on 8/11/23. Sundog says Versant is moving it forward but there is no definite date. Energy Audit for wastewater treatment plant. It is a Maine DEP project with funding from Efficiency Maine. Cornell will meet with Tony and Bethany to see if an upgrade needs to happen before an audit happens.
- i. [Municipal Building reno. Grant](#) we have until Dec 2024. Cornell is working with someone to write a draft of an RFP. He sent it to Tobin and Ruth who will look it over and see if they have any advice to give.
- B. EV Charger discussion—Cornell will check in with Sarah and Bethany to see if there is anything more we can help with. We will give him our recommendation for a network provider today. OpConnect (\$3662 for one, \$75 start up fee, \$ 240 annual networking fee per port). or CyberSwitching 48 amps. (\$1580 for one, same annual cost per port for annual networking and an 11% fee charged to the customer and the town gets all the revenue). Kids Corner installation electrician cost is about \$9K and the ball field is about \$7500. If we want to install 2 double stations we will need to take some money out of our budget (about \$500) if we go with CyberSwitching. Ezra asks how much it might cost a person to charge? Tobin: about \$1 and hour, but the Town would set the rate, which would be about what the electricity costs. Norm's opinion is to use CyberSwitching. Brian is in favor of that as well due to cost. Also we can replace them if a better one comes along or if they go out of business etc. This is our first go around so why not go with the cheaper one? We took a vote and we all agree to recommend CyberSwitching to the Town. Ruth will email Cornell and the Council.
- C. Ezra's work—answer as many questions as possible from list. See last meeting's notes.
- D. ACTT stuff;
 - i. Sandia Labs visited with ACTT for a few days are working on a plan for how a microgrid might be laid out and the impacts to the Town including demographic needs. They are looking for input and support. Next step: they will take all the info from the

meetings and run the models and will bring back the outcomes.
All done with grant funding.

- ii. Sept 30th event–ACTT event from 10-3pm EV stuff too. Ruth will attend for us with a table from Brian. (Same time as the Stone Barn festival/open house)
- iii. ICLEI contracted work idea–Could Brie spend some time on the ICLEI stuff? Nope. Too busy now through Dec. Tobin: could it be a COA internship? Or as community service? Ruth will contact them.

E. Advocating support for Pine Tree Power to Town Council? Community owned utility option that will be voted on in November. Ezra: it is on the Council agenda and they would like a rep from the task force to explain why the town should take a stance on the issue. Can we show that the commercial utilities are hampering our climate goals? Mary Ann: What would the Town do with this information? How do they make a stand? Ezra: the campaign would have to publicize that the Town is in favor. Ezra is willing to go before the Council (Oct 3) to explain how it would benefit the Town. Volts podcast just interviewed Nicole Grohoski about this issue and laid it out pretty clearly. Ezra–We need to decide: Should someone advocate? What should the advocacy be? And who should go? Brian: perhaps a letter to the editor would make a bigger impact. Brian moves that we recommend to Council that they support Question 3 and that Ezra attends the Council meeting representing the task force to give our recommendation and rationale (this helps achieve our ghg goals and mandate as a task force). Ruth seconds. Discussion: Do we want to ask them to advocate? **Ezra**: if they say yes to supporting the Question 3 then we can tell them that we will write an op ed advertising their support. We can send a letter to the editor in support regardless. **Mary Ann** will help Ezra write that letter. Vote: all in favor. Any letter should be in to the Islander by the 27. Contact the copy editor for any info. Ezra will email us his testimony before attending the Council meeting.

7. Regular Business

A. 20 min - share out on CAP edits

- i. [latest draft of CAP 2.0](#) Tobin and Jen added public feedback into their sections of the report.
- ii. [Divided goals into different types](#) (we should all continue with this task)
 1. Mary Ann's [notes on Waste Strategy](#) next waste audit should be done in the winter. We should meet with Bethany as soon as possible to get her feedback and input. Compost bins...listening session suggested the town should provide them. Tobin: We should also look at our contract with MRC and how our hands are tied in some instances. We should also amplify initiatives that are already happening like Food Waste Awareness Week. umaine.edu/foodrescuemaine Another issue was pay as you throw. In the past people were opposed to it but the feeling might be different now.

Especially if we highlighted what other towns are doing. Also Swap Shop etc...

- B. 30 min - review priority projects & next steps – We should devote a whole meeting with Bethany in November.
8. Closing
 - A. October meeting schedule (next designated meeting on a holiday) Ruth will put together a survey with the Comp Plan folks to help us determine our next meeting.
 - B. Review & assign “to do” list.
 9. Adjournment: Jen moves to adjourn, Ruth seconds. All in favor. 5:32PM.

“To Do” List:

- MainePERS Divestment campaign (implementation of LD 99, background [here](#)) Ruth will ask Sarah and Cornell about this.
 - Target advocating this change to the MainePERS board member drawn from the Maine Municipal Association?
- Ezra’s [List of questions](#)
- Climate Ambassadors program for town staff and volunteers in the fall - next steps? (Brie?)
- [Maine’s Climate Agenda](#) perhaps we should print this out and distribute in town