

CETF Minutes 9/27/21
4:00pm, Council Chambers

1. Call to order: 4:07PM
2. Attendance: Kristen Murphy, Ruth Poland, Millard Dority, Jen Crandall, Tobin Peacock, Brian Booher will be late (4:37pm), Margaret absent, Sirohi cannot attend, Norm Burdzel, Erin absent.
3. Approval of Minutes for 9/13/21: Kristen moves to approve the minutes, Millard seconds. All approve.
4. Adoption of Agenda: Millard moves to approve the agenda as posted. Tobin seconds. All approve.
5. Public Comment? none
6. Regular Business
 - A. Quick Updates: (20min)
 1. Americorp VISTA updates (Jen)--add notes. Ruth talked with Cornell about space, and Sarah Gilbert would be the person to really ask. We could also share the person with ACTT who could be a supervisor. Millard may be able to find a space if there is nothing in the Town Office or the Public Works Building. Norm wonders how a direct connection to ACTT would fly. Kristen asks if we could share the person with NEH. Ruth is concerned that no one at either town office is familiar with the kind of work we are asking for. Someone at ACTT would be more knowledgeable and helpful as a supervisor. Kristen doesn't feel like it is a conflict of interest. Tobin would like to NOT rush this application and wait for a June application or next year. There are also funding opportunities and we could take the time to write a grant. Millard: more time would give us more time to explore working with Mt Desert. That might get other towns to join us. Jen: we should set up a timeline for the application for a 2023 start. **Jen** will work on the application. **Tobin** will talk to Sarah Gilbert about space in the Town Office and look at the funding opportunities.
 2. Energy Benchmarking check-in (Brian) asked Cornell for the numbers he needs. Waiting to hear back and **Brian** will remind him. Brian also has a spread sheet with some data in it.
 3. Recommendation to fire dept for EV accident safety training (<https://www.nfpa.org/EV>) (Ruth) The fire chief mentioned in the interview with Norm that he would like an EV training. **Norm** is a member and will forward the information to the chief.
 4. Jenn Wood of KLA \$9,500 annual fee plus 5k set up fee. This would be good if we can't get a sustainability coordinator, Jenn's org could provide some of the services. Ruth sent out email chain with her and examples of what they do in other towns.
 5. Ampion person sent info about helping us promote community solar. We do not want to appear to support one company over another.

6. Millard: Planning board did NOT pass the solar ordinance. They are recommending on the ballot that voters do not approve it. It will require a 2/3 majority vote. We should do a get out the vote campaign. Ruth: perhaps an op-ed about why we disagree and want people to vote for it. Anyone? **Ruth** could draft something and we could all look it over. **Millard** will do a little research and get the info to Ruth ASAP. Get the letter in right before the election.

B. Review RFP responses & select (30min) Only one from Laura Berry. Millard moves that we hire Laura, Norm seconds. All approve. Ruth: are we all willing to check over updates, and have **Ruth** be the point of contact since we are not meeting again until the project is done? Everyone agrees.

C. CAP work (30min)

a. Ania Wright notes on CAP (?) not received.

b. Incorporating Dept Head feedback: do we need more time on this? All done at this point.

c. Separating municipal budget items from action items that should have more public input (?)

d. Identify community members for final feedback

1. Maine Municipal Association (Police Accreditation program that looks at greenhouse gas emissions)

2. Dept. Heads

e. Polco discussion-- Norm: threw together some general questions that were less specific to Town of Bar Harbor. It would get us a sense of how people feel about climate issues. Brian: the recommendation from Nina was that we limit it to 4 questions. Also what input are we looking for? Looking for a sense of urgency and sensitivity to cost. Norm: I took the questions and converted them to a personal type question. Kristen: likes the questions about whether a person would spend more for climate. If we need to cut questions, the one about how to fund is less necessary. Tobin: we need to watch our tone on these questions. Ruth: can the questions can be free response? Yes, but free response takes a lot of time to analyze. Ruth: I wonder how we can get info but also start prepping people for a workshop. The last 2 questions were especially good: The opening statement of Brian's set of questions could be morphed into something for the start of this polco. Kristen: getting people to know about free energy audits like Efficiency Maine would make a big difference. Jen: what about a final question asking if people are willing to be involved in a workshop discussing what the Town could do/will do. Kristen: what about having an energy fair while the farmer's market is happening would draw in lots of people? Ruth: I love this idea but don;t know that we have the time for this but our future Vista volunteer could organize this. This is a separate event from a Town workshop to discuss what we do as a Task Force. Ruth: it is important to phrase the questions so

that they sound like we are here to serve them. Also in the intro we could include a phrase about reducing the financial impact of climate change. Millard: what if we give a draft of these to people we know to see how folks respond?

Norm's questions are below:

What have you personally done to battle climate change?

1. Nothing, no plans to change
2. Nothing but planning to within 3-5 years.
3. Nothing but planning to within 1-2 years
4. Purchased a more efficient vehicle
5. Limited travel/Vacationing
6. Installed a heat pump
7. Burn wood instead of fossil fuels
8. Installed Solar
9. Purchased green power from Utility or provider like Nexamp.
10. Bought an energy star appliance

Would you pay more in monthly expenses to battle climate change?

1. No
2. Yes but less than \$25/Month
3. Yes, but less than \$100/Month
4. Yes but less than \$250/Month
5. Yes, but less than \$500/Month

What incentive would allow you to lower your carbon footprint?

1. Low interest rates
2. Guaranteed savings
3. Improved reliability
4. Lower utility bills
5. Free grants for upgrades
6. No incentive, the climate emergency is enough.

What assistance can the climate task force do to help you reduce carbon emissions?

1. Online calculators to help compute costs and savings of upgrades.
2. Website with links to information on carbon reduction ideas, incentives, grants and financing
3. Online or live Carbon reduction workshops with live speakers who have upgraded to ask questions to.
4. One on one consulting for upgrades with energy savings and cost calculation assistance.
5. Local public fair with EVs, hybrid vehicles, heat pumps, solar vendors, home energy upgrades presented.

Final Questions: What can the town do to help you reduce your GHG emissions? a) education, b) policy change? c) financial assistance? d) other? (see Brian's questions for list)

What incentives would work for you? What incentive would allow you to lower your carbon footprint?

1. Low interest rates
2. Guaranteed savings
3. Improved reliability
4. Lower utility bills
5. Free grants for upgrades
6. No incentive, the climate emergency is enough.

What would you like the town to do to help reduce community-wide GHG emissions?

Are you interested in attending a public forum to discuss CAP implementation?

Brian will send out a draft of these before he talks with Nina and Cornell

7. Final Thoughts (5min)

D. Review & assign "to do" list

8. Adjournment:5:36Pm Jen moves to adjourn. Millard seconds. All approve.

To Do:

- Highlight items from the Continuing Improvement Plan (CIP) that we need to address & bring to the next meeting.
- Identify community members to give feedback on CAP; should we send a draft to Dept. Heads?
- Contact Materials Research (Jill Webber) to find out if she has ideas of how to help us.

CAP Timeline:

Sept 27th - Hire an editor & identify other community members for review

Oct 12th - Review editor feedback, incorporate poll results, send out to community members for final feedback

Oct 25th - All final edits to CAP due - review

Nov 8th - Final Review of CAP "Part 1:" & prepare council presentation

Nov 16th - Present "Part 1" to Council

Dec 13th - Plan out "Part 2" & Public Forum