

CETF 10/23/23

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

1. Call to order: 4pm
2. Attendance: Ruth Poland, Ezra Sassman, Tobin Peacock, Mary Ann Handel, Jen Crandall (Brian Booher and Gary Friedmann arrived after initial votes for minutes and agenda)
3. Approval of Minutes from [9/25/23](#) (Vote): Mary Ann moved to approve the minutes, Ruth seconded. All approve.
4. Adoption of Agenda (Vote): Jen moves to accept the agenda as presented, Ezra seconded; all approve.
5. Public Comment: none
6. Quick Event Reports

A. Sept 30th "Climate Solutions Fair" w/ACTT (Ruth)

- i. Ruth attended. Very fun. Lots of COA students came by and were curious about task force. Ruth will send them applications.

B. Oct. 21st "Climate Futures" w/MYCJ in Blue Hill (Ezra)

- i. About 50-60 people attended, 7 person panel. Very successful. COA came out in full force. Goal is to replicate the event in other communities. They have done it in Blue Hill and Bar Harbor already. The event was recorded and can be shared.

C. We have 2 more listening sessions to be scheduled before March to comply with the CRP grant. Brie says they can be focused and smaller than the broad one we did already. ie we can have one at Open Table MDI during one of their dinners. What would be most helpful for us from Brie and ACTT? It can be varied and not necessarily the same as our last one. One in January and one in March??? Gary: it would be great if it happened when the new SC was on board and have it be a meet and greet as well as questions. Another could be with the Chamber and businesses. Ezra: consider diversifying where we host. Jen: connecting with businesses and cheering them on for their green efforts would be a good start to our sustainable tourism goal. Gary: happy to reach out to Everill from the Chamber about this and try to see if he is interested. Could be a good time to meet the town manager as well.

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. Are we OK with these additions? If so what are our next steps? Ezra: Is there a tourism committee going to be established now that the cruise ship committee has been dissolved? Gary: that topic could be a big one during the goal setting session. Ezra: if we had a committee that could work with our Chamber and include someone from our group we could ensure sustainable tourism would be on the table. Brian will do transportation and Gary will do renewable energy. Ezra will add his notes as will Mary Ann.

- ii. [Divided goals into different types](#) (we should all continue with this task)
 - 1. Mary Ann's [notes on Waste Strategy](#)
- B. 30 min - review priority projects & next steps
- i. "Updates & Next Steps" Decision Items
 - 1. Municipal Building Reno RFP & EV Charger installations (Ruth)--Ruth emailed Cornell, Bethany and Sarah that we were all set with our recommendation on the EV charger installation. Doesn't need Council approval. Sarah emailed: "Cornell approved the purchase, please proceed with the ordering of them." And sent a PO number. Shouldn't she or Bethany be the ones to order them? Gary: it shouldn't come from a task force. A dept head should order it. Ruth will talk with Bethany. In terms of the RFP, Ruth and Tobin just read the grant that Laura wrote for the reno of the town building. It is too little money for what needs to happen. It is \$50K from the second CRP grant. Sarah needs help writing the RFP for the work. Sarah had a consultant write a draft of an RFP and gave that to Ruth. We need to determine what the money gets spent on. Heat pumps? Insulation? The first step of the grant is a building audit: level 3 audit is a year long and about \$50K and very in-depth. (A level 1 you would do in your home). It is assuming funds from Efficiency Maine and matching funds from the Town. Gary: We should find out what is available for Efficiency Maine. Also a grant can't be submitted that obligates the Town without approval. Ruth: the Town contribution was mostly staff time. The grant calls for 4 tasks: Energy audit, building electrification, outreach and energy monitoring and building systems retrofit. The money is there in our CETF account. Brian: as a task force we could make a recommendation to Council of what to do. Gary: there is money in the budget for a sustainability coordinator and it needs to be filled ASAP. It is a big project and needs a person to oversee it. Ruth: told Sarah-- *why don't we ask some providers to do an Ashry audit (maybe level 2) and then ask the State for an extension since we don't have a sustainability coordinator.* Brian: it should be pursued and we need to dot the i's and cross the t's to make sure we get the future funding. Jen: it should be our first order of business with the new Town Manager that we need a SC to follow through with this grant and future funding. We should also ask the State for the extension. Gary: let's ask the new Town Manager to attend our next meeting. Ruth will invite him and cc Gary (Gary will find his email address for Ruth). The audit needs to happen first before an RFP is written.

2. Creating a vision/accomplishments site page (Ezra).
 3. ICLEI next steps (Brian?) Ezra, Brie and Brian can get together to work on this.
 4. Advocating support for Pine Tree Power to Town Council—too late for a letter to the editor. Gary: we could get the bloggers like Carrie Jones to publish something. Ezra: there are some events about it in the community. We could ask Carrie to publish our perspective and tell her we are sharing a press release endorsing it as well as a list of upcoming events. **Ruth moves to endorse Pine Tree Power and that Ezra and Mary Ann send a press release stating why we endorse it to Malachy. Brian seconded. All present approved.** It would need to be to the Islander by the end of the day tomorrow.
 5. Advocating [LD99 to MainePERS](#) to board member drawn from the Maine Municipal Association. Who on town staff has a connection to MMA? Ezra: not a huge priority right now and might be better placed in a meeting with Bethany and/or the new Town Manager.
- ii. Brainstorm topics to discuss with Bethany in November—Mary Ann- would like her to come with info about the current municipal waste situation, do a waste audit. What are the prospects for Pay as you Throw? What can be done and who should do it about banning food waste from municipal trash. What is our agreement with the new Fiber Rite folks and what if we break that agreement? Ezra: we have lots of plans but we don't know who is going to do the work, when and how. If we get these answered from Bethany then we can do a vision/accomplishments site page. Tobin: who is accounting for making sure that any new purchases of materials are sustainable? Ruth: Want to start with: how can we help you? What are her top priorities concerning sustainability. Jen: there is so much that has already been done that we want to highlight.
- iii. Major "To Do" list for CETF
1. Connect with new Town Manager & support Sustainability Coordinator search—Gary says that sustainability is not necessarily his thing, but he has lots of experience and wants to build strong teams and is really excited about coming to Bar Harbor. He is interested in efficiency. The Council is having a goal setting session on the first Monday of November. That will be the first chance to really talk with him about the council's goals. He will also meet individually with each Councillor and Gary will bring this up. Ruth would like to get set up a meeting to get to know him and let him know about our work. (see above about inviting him to our next meeting)

8. Closing
- A. Review & assign “to do” list. **Reminder that we will be meeting with the Comp Plan folks on the 30th.**
9. Adjournment: Jen moves to adjourn, MaryAnn seconds. All approve. 5:33PM.

“To Do” List:

- Ezra’s [List of questions](#)
- [Maine’s Climate Agenda](#) perhaps we should print this out and distribute in town?
- Contact ACTT about supporting Climate Ambassadors project