

## 8/10/20 Task Force on Climate Emergency Meeting Minutes

- Call to order: Cornell Knight, Jill Goldthwait, Jen Crandall, Margaret Jeffery, Darron Collins, Sirohi Kumar, Tobin Peacock, Brian Booher, Spencer Gray, Norm Burdzel (came later)
- Approval of Minutes. Darron motion to approve, Tobin seconded. Yeas: Margaret, Jill, Tobin, Jen, Darron, Spencer
- Adoption of Agenda: Jen motion to approve the agenda and Tobin seconds. Yeas: Jill, Tobin, Jen, Darron, Spencer, Daron.
- Public Comment: none at this time
- Regular Business
- Meeting procedural considerations:

- i. Task Force should consider doing a Land Acknowledgement.

This is a standard practice of reminding everyone before a meeting or gathering that we are performing this work on land that was unjustly stolen from Indigenous Peoples. It can be a simple agenda item, just saying "I would like to acknowledge that we are doing this work on the stolen land of the [insert tribes here] of Maine"

Discussion:

Tobin suggested a values statement instead, a more general statement and more positive note about how we are trying to acknowledge the past and our efforts to improve our behaviors.

Jill is concerned that it is out of the scope of this group and looks like a town policy and suggests against it.

Sirohi suggests a statement that recognizes our understanding of climate justice and have it put into the bylaws. Jill says that the town council would have to make any change to our bylaws.

Margaret suggests that we could look at climate justice and include it in our work as a task force. She likes the idea of acknowledging a broad statement but maybe not at the beginning of every meeting.

Darron is afraid it would seem tokenistic to simply make a statement, rather it should be part of each action and that we underscore it as we present our efforts.

Sirohi suggests a statement that could be added to the website.

Brian reminds us that all we can do is make recommendations to the council.

Jill believes that if we make climate justice a focus of our work it would be fine, but any statement or policy statement is beyond our purview.

Anything we published would need to be brought to council first.

Brian moves us along and is confident that we can infuse our work with climate justice without any change.

- ii. Adding and reviewing ideas and directions we could pursue as a special "Future Work" part of our agenda. We would not discuss the topic per se, but acknowledge if it's something we want to work on now or wait until later.

Discussion:

Tobin would like to make this public and solicit public input and expertise. They might be able to take it on or volunteer to help. Margaret concurred.

Jen moves to add this to section future agendas and Jill seconds it. This will include climate justice and cruise ships. Yeas: Jill, Jen, Spencer, Darron, Norm, Margaret, Tobin

- Outreach to other stakeholders: Spencer and Sirohi.

Haven't been able to meet together but plan to meet tomorrow. Sirohi is still waiting for a meeting with hospital. She did meet with Kate Macko who is willing to bring Jax into the mix and Norm reminds us that any solicitation for funds would need to be approved by the town council, including grant funds.

- Audit of BH's GHG Emissions:

- i. Presentation by Agim.

Agim Mazreku is a COA grad. Did a guideline to greenhouse gas emissions inventory of Bar Harbor. Policy makers can have data to use to justify their purchases or policies around climate action. It also allows a baseline to compare after a change to see what the impact is of new climate policies. A copy of this report and tool is in our shared folder. Tobin asks what data is the most difficult to collect. Agim says it is transportation data that is so difficult to track because of the influx of tourists. Darron recognizes that the most difficult data to collect is often the most important. He asks Agim which tool he might use or how to focus on that. Agim suggests car counters and compare with other regional data with similar numbers. Spencer adds that it's complicated but as long as we look at one factor and stay consistent we can compare year to year. We can look at %change. Some of this data can be gotten from Maine DOT. Agim has that info in his report. Also stakeholders working together can be insightful with these issues.

ii. Review of info on ESPM site. Jen and Spencer spoke with Ruth Poland and got into the framework. It has sparse and limited data but is great tool for inputting data. No further work needed to look into this. We need to determine if we and when we want to start putting data into the site and who will do that. Electricity data can be automated but fuel data would need to be input manually.

iii. Reviewing town's past fuel bills and consumption: Cornell spoke with Stan about getting oil consumption numbers for the year. He said he could get to that. Brian is willing to collect that data if that is helpful. Also gathering gas and diesel numbers would be great.

- Subgroup efforts and structure

i. Public Education :Jill and Darron will work on this. Jill offers to write newspaper articles about task force and how COA and high school students' idea has become a reality. Also how town has been doing even before the task force. Another idea is how technology can have a down side. These articles could also include climate justice as a topic. Jill would write up article and circulate them to town council and task force before publishing. Drafts could be put on next agenda for editing at meeting. Darron will work with Jill on these articles and wants to focus on relevance.

ii. Public Outreach : See above. Sirohi will also talk with ACTT to get info about the classes they are conducting and promote them.

iii. GHG Audit: Spencer wants to put forward a motion that we should have a greenhouse gas audit of all municipal buildings. Jill says we do not need to ask the council's consent to get this started. Spencer wonders if someone should be assigned to do this or hired to do it. Brian wants us to make clear recommendations with specific parameters. He also says that the council will be more likely to agree on something that doesn't cost money. Spencer says scale is municipal operations of town which is pretty straightforward. It is too easy for the audit to be done sloppily if it is done by volunteers. Spencer is willing to write up some language for the scope of the audit to propose to the council. Jill wonders if the most important parts of the audit can be highlighted and can it be done by volunteers. Spencer will highlight items and says we can move forward putting in some data. Brian is willing to work with Spencer to work on this. Agim is also willing to be available via email for consultation.

Jen moves to complete the rest of the agenda at the next meeting. Margaret seconds.  
Yes Jill, Jen, Spencer, Tobin, Margaret. Brian.  
Motion to adjourn all approve.

Future Agenda Items:

- Enable solar at the town's Salisbury Farm (Patti Hill) property. Status of effort. (this may be 2 different lots. Jill will sort out which is which)
- Investigate what other towns are doing so as to avoid duplicate efforts
  - i. Response from Rep. Brian Hubbell re state assistance for municipal climate change planning.

- ii. Response from Maine Municipal Association on resources for municipal climate change planning.

- iii.

- Town Waste – GHG load. Jennifer noted that with the closing of our recycling options, recycling along with other waste is simply being burned which emits GHG's.

- EV chargers in Bar Harbor. Norm mentioned there are no fast chargers up this way. We will discuss options and if the town might consider putting some up.

- I. ACTT interns' proposal re ground-mounted solar panels in BH

J. Funding sources for Carbon mitigation efforts:

- i. Offer of assistance from Material Research.

- Future Work:

- Tourism carbon impact

- i. Cruise ships

- Climate Justice

- Items for next meeting. (See unfinished agenda items above)

- Adjournment--see above