

Task Force on the Climate Emergency

Minutes for meeting 8/24/2020, 3:30 PM.

- Call to order--Spencer unable to make it. No word from Tom St Germain.

Present: Cornell Knight, Darron Collins, Tobin Peacock, Margaret Jeffery, Norm Burdzell, Brian Booher, Sirohi Kumar, Jill Goldthwait, Jen Crandall,

- Approval of Minutes-Tobin moved, Darron seconded, all approved.
- Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comment--no one here at this time.
- Regular Business

• Feedback from Town Council: Jill updated the council on our efforts. She'll share their feedback.

Council said if we are going to spend \$1000 or more, report to them first, if less report afterwards. Council is proscribed from fundraising but if someone wanted to volunteer work or money to help the task force that would be ok. Press release would be OK, either from us or through a reporter. We do not need to get preapproval. Liz Graves wrote one and will try to run it next week. Any of us speaking to a reporter should/could differentiate our thoughts/words as Task Force members from local citizens. The council did put some money in a budget line (\$17K) for a sustainability person or consulting help. If we need funds for another purpose we need to make request.

• Outreach to other stakeholders: Spencer and Sirohi. The hospital contact has stalled but Sirohi has an appt on Thursday to meet with them. Stakeholders might be looking for specific requests from the task force.

- Subgroup efforts and structure

i. Public Education--Jill and Darron

1. Proposals for public education articles re work of Task Force, perhaps resources for the public on how to do a household energy audit or ways to reduce/reuse/recycle etc. **Sirohi and Jill will get together regarding topics for articles.**

2. Sharing Resources on Town website. How can we have more of a web presence to share resources with the public? **Brian is willing to talk with Steve (the town's IT guy) at the Town to add a module to the website for Task Force to add info.** Like a document store or something. Tobin suggests looking at the Maine Climate Council's website as a template. Perhaps everyone can take a look at that for the next meeting: Climatecouncil.maine.gov

ii. Public Outreach

1. See Sirohi's update

iii. GHG Audit

1. Reviewing town's past fuel bills and consumption: Cornell. We have Scope 1 info for town from Cornell that Brian put in our shared folder. We do not have CE School info yet. They will be mailed to Brian.

2. Spencer & Brian recommendations. Scope 1, 2 or 3 level of ghg assessment. Scope 1 is direct burning of fossil fuels. Scope 2 purchased utilities. In BH that is only electricity. Scope 3 is everything else: solid waste, transportation of supplies, employees commuting to work, etc. Spencer was going to show what COA involved in their assessment. S and B suggest only Scope 1 and 2 for BH for now.

Data should be collected annually and go back 3 years. Use Energy Star Portfolio Manager as the tool to collect data. The Manager is designed around buildings and fuel usage, not things like police car...there are better tools that will do that but it is a subscription based model. Spencer can show us next time.

Spencer felt that we could find a college or HS student intern to do this work annually.

Norm agrees that assistance from a student will be really helpful since it is a lot of data to crunch.

One finding that Brian noticed was that the sewer treatment plant uses much more heating oil than the municipal building and wondered why. Water, sewer treatment and trash disposal is part of Scope 3. Is some of this oil usage is for sewerage treatment or is it simply a heating use. If for heating we should count it in Scope 1. **Cornell will ask what the fuel usage is for and we can decide how to include it.**

Brain would like to make a very specific recommendation to Council for starting the audit. **Brain will talk with Spencer some more and try to get a tight proposal together.**

- Material Research: contacted Jill Goldthwaite. They are a consulting company offering to help with Climate Task Force data gathering. Jill Weber is willing to come to a future meeting to talk with us. They might advise us on where we might go. Contracts to professional services is exempt from needing to be put out to bid. These folks would be great for Scope 3 assessment. **Brain will talk with Spencer about whether or not we need their help and what they can help us with.**

- Enable solar at the town's Salisbury Farm property. Status of effort.--ACTT has been advocating for this for a while. Margaret sent out a memo on Aug 10 with attachments about where we are and where the project is. It has gone before the Town Council about 3 weeks ago.. A proposal that there be a standing solar array. It is a 40 acre lot accessed by a right of way. There are some obstacles to developing it as a freestanding array, which are not allowed by Town ordinance. First step is to change the ordinance with the Planning Dept. Town Council seemed supportive. Council approved having the planning dept to develop an ordinance to allow a solar array in prep for a vote in June 2021.

Not visible by other areas. The land is within the Park boundaries. Some question about the land transfer. The previous owners have an option to purchase if the Town chooses to sell it. The area is already a "brown field". The area is down a ¼ mile road that will need to be brought up to date in order to use it. Other things to consider: storage of energy at the site on a microgrid or have the energy to put it on the Versant grid.

Margaret thinks we could serve as a liaison between the Town and ACTT. The interns have been going directly to Town Council but it makes sense for us to be a part of that discussion. ACTT is willing to fund a solar coordinator and the goal is for the Town to not have to pay anything to have this array on the Town property. ACTT is willing to get assessments and developers and have them work with the Town.

Right now the Planning Dept is very much focused on Vacation Rental so might not be able to focus on this topic for now.

How can this task force participate in this effort? For ACTT? For The Town Council? Norm wonders if the bylaws limit us? How much of the nitty gritty of this project do we want to get involved with? Perhaps our role could be investigating other land uses that could be opened up to more things like this.

We shall leave it as a wait and see if we can be involved with. It will go to the future work area until we see what our role could be.

It would be good to have a connection with ACTT to keep up on their work so we don't step on toes or duplicate efforts. **Margaret will ask ACTT.**

- 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.

Happy to connect us to the Maine Climate Council, who are happy to do outreach. **Jill can start contacting those folks and ask how they start, what are they doing, can we team up with other towns, how do they get their funding?**

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

Jill had asked about other communities doing climate work. MMA doesn't have a specific list but gave Jill some resources. Island Institute has been working on a number of projects with other communities. Lots of other info for other towns and projects. Jill asked if there was a State fund for this kind of work. MMA will ask if grants are available.

- 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. The Town is recycling with PERC but Cornell believes that Fiber Right will be up and running by the end of the year.

- 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. Jill shared a list of all charging stations but there is no distinction between public availability. Perhaps the Town could put one in that could be coin operated. Level 3 is the fast charger (75K to install) Level 2 is a couple hour (8K to install) but they are paid for by the owner. Others are coin op and are more expensive to install. Several Efficiency Maine grants for municipalities to put in chargers for a town. Perhaps BH could get a grant to put in a public charger that could be coin op. Cornell met with ACTT to discuss putting one in at the Ferry Terminal. Postponed until the Harbor Committee weighs in, then there will be an RFP. It will be next summer before we get to that discussion. Jill wonders if other communities in Maine that are thinking of this and reaching out to find out how they are doing it. The person at ACTT has done lots of this thinking and work already. Ken Colburn and Denis Kiley are the ones at ACTT who have been working on this. Perhaps we could invite them to discuss the chargers and their efforts.

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

J. Funding sources for Carbon mitigation efforts:

i. Efficiency Maine grants,

- Future Work:

- Tourism carbon impact

- i. Cruise ships

- li. recycling containers and pick up?

- Climate Justice

- Solar Array

- Items for next meeting.

- Look at environmental impact of purchases that the Town makes. Make recommendations.
- Adjournment-Jen moves, Margaret seconds. All agree. (Brian is working on getting Sirohi to be able to make motions)

Action items to be taken between now and the next meeting are in **BOLD**.