

9/14/2020 Bar Harbor Task Force on Climate Emergency Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order: Jennifer Crandall, Sirohi unable to attend, Cornell Knight, Norm Burdzel will be late, Tobin Peacock, Jill Goldthwait, Tom St Germain, Darron Collins, Brian Booher, Spencer Gray, Margaret Jeffery,

2. Approval of Minutes-Margaret moves to approve the minutes, Jill seconds. Jen, Tobin, Jill, Margaret, Darron, Brian all YAY.

3. Adoption of Agenda- Jill moves, Darron seconds. Jen, Tobin, Margaret, Tom, Brian, Spencer, all YAYs.

4. Public Comment. Gordon will speak to EV chargers.

5. Regular Business

A. Outreach to other stakeholders: Spencer and Sirohi

B. Subgroup efforts and structure

i. Public Education

1. Proposals for public education articles re work of Task Force. Jill had a couple of thoughts: we can send a press release or if we do something newsworthy we can ask the Islander to write it up. Possible: come up with a list of resources for homeowners, goal of Gov to be carbon neutral by 20??, also our GHG audit. Liz Graves no longer works for the Islander so reporters are thin on the ground. Darron says there is also the idea of a web based clearing house of resources for the public. Perhaps a COA student could build that. Spencer says it could be workstudy student. He and Darron will get together to talk about that. Margaret says that the next time a mailing from the Town goes out we could include something in there. Jill checked with Council and says that Sirohi is a resident of BH and can make motions and do her committee work, but not vote because she would need to be a registered voter

ii. Public Outreach

1. Sharing Resources on Town website. Spencer asks where a resource list/website would have to live? Can it be linked on the Town website or does it need to originate from the Town website? Cornell says it needs to be on the Town website, follow the Town rules, and be under Town control. Brian will talk with Steve about making it easier to find on website. Will this prevent a COA student from creating or working on a resource site? Spencer says they can still create the content and have someone else populate it.

2. Brian report back on what's possible with Town's website platform. Unable to do before this meeting but will do that.

iii. GHG Audit

1. Spencer & Brian recommendations. Get the low hanging fruit done (scope 1--fuels, and 2-- elec) Scope 3 is more challenging to collect that data and act on it. Jen spoke with Ruth Poland who recommended that someone be in charge of managing ESPM <https://portfoliomanager.energystar.gov/> having the template and organizing the headings. Anyone with Excel can upload data into the management system. We need electric bills from Stan Harmon to enter and/or update greenbutton (auto entry).

Can someone with experience donate a day to get this going? Ruth is willing to donate a day if no one else is willing but is worried that she might not get it set up correctly.

Spencer agrees to start fresh in ESMP and would like to get the account set up for the elec bill and the automatic update on line. Spencer needs to talk with Stan.

Jill says we should look at the York County report for action steps.

Spencer says that he intends that the audit also includes the analysis and projects, not just get the data.

Do we want to set a timeline? Brian says that we need to follow the Town's budget timeline. Spencer wonders if he and Brian should get together to create a formal motion to bring to the table for next meeting. Jill believes we can proceed with a broader goal as well as laying the foundation for an audit. Lay out the steps to move forward.

COA is using a paid for GHG audit program that is much more versatile than ESPM (which is free) Graphical interface that is plug and play <https://unhsimap.org/home>. Different tiers (2months free) Spencer suggests that data gets put into that tool to start and make it available to the Town. Then we can decide if we want to pay for it. Tobin asks about timeline. Spencer says audit won't take too long but recommendations and updates would be an annual task that will become more automated as you do it. Brian is hoping that this can be done by the next meeting or two. Next Council meeting is tomorrow night and then the first Tuesday in Oct. Jill can report to Council that we want to start the audit and that the expenditure would be below \$1000.

C. EV chargers in Bar Harbor: Discussion with Gordon Beck of A Climate to Thrive. ACTT got a grant to install EV charging stations in Downeast Maine from Belfast to Ellsworth, Machias, Lubec to Houlton (2 plug stations). BH station at the Abbe Museum. Their goal is to alleviate the charging distances. Dont deal with DC fast chargers because of cost, but do deal with level 2 chargers. 2 chargers at the high school, MDI Biolab. Do you have a site that makes sense with power and public access? There are subsidies to help out from Efficiency Maine and ACTT. Possible new sites are Agamont Park, ball field, ferry terminal. Spencer says at COA level 2 makes sense due to time and cost...sweet spot. People tend to stay on campus for a while. Cost of using is borne by the user and not the Town. Full EVs generally 1 hour charging gives you 25 miles of range. DC level 3 are vastly more expensive and require more electricity to run them. Drivers want them because they are fast. Different levels impact parking differently. Level 3 takes a long term parking spot out of rotation because they are only needed for 15 minutes. Level 2 can be installed personally, but level 3 would probably need professional installation. Final electrical connection needs to be done by an electrician for level 2. Gordon says \$6600 per installed station with 2 chargers installed on average. Critical question: network charges or free to public? Networked ones charge the individual but the provider can set the rate. Town would get reimbursed for the electricity but pay for the networking fee. Brain asks: price of renewable systems is going down. Will cost of level 3 going to go down in a couple of years? Gordon says probably not due to the amount of power and the hardware involved and paying for the utility company's installation. Hotels, restaurants, workplaces, can all have 2 hour charging stations as amenities or even an external power outlet near parking areas. Gordon has one last thought: there will be more and more EVs on the road as they become more affordable.

i. Cost Estimates – Norm shared a cost estimate sheet which has been added to the shared folder. High speed charging is very expensive, but you do get to charge quickly. Norm says that Bosch has an alternative choice for high speed that would cost much less than a commercial grade. (see his report in folder)

Brian wonders about gov't's role in providing this sort of service. Gordon says that a town can provide the location and a private organization provides the power and charging equipment. A town owned parking lot or garage can work with a private entity.

D. ACTT update from Tobin. Tobin attended an emergency meeting of ACTT's technology meeting. 2 items: Salisbury Solar Array, working with Versant to create a microgrid demonstrator lab on MDI. Versant did bring a number of players to the table. Solar array could

be more impactful than T realized 10 mega watt system potential. During peak load during high season is 17 megawatts, peak load during low season 9 megawatts. MDI could be an exporter of clean energy during low season. Jen asks: How can the task force be helpful in this effort? Margaret says that the first step is to change the ordinance. Jill says the Town has already put in the request to begin that work. Being available to support them and help the town understand why it is important. ACTT is working on it and we can be cheerleaders for it.

E. Commitment to be Carbon neutral by (???)

i. Many governments and other organizations are committing to become GHG neutral by a certain date. Would Bar Harbor consider making a similar pledge? Spencer suggests that we set a goal to be in line with the State as a placeholder and could be updated as we get a better sense of where the Town is (after audit). We will continue this discussion next meeting.

F. Working within the current budget cycle.

i. The town purchases capital items on a regular basis and makes financial plans to pay for them over time. How might we work with that existing schedule to advocate purchases to minimize GHG emissions. What other plans does the Town have that are capital improvements in the budget? And could we help recommend that they be the greenest option available/affordable? We will talk about that some more next time. Tobin says we should advocate that the Town go into a comprehensive planning phase with climate change mitigation being up front in the process and include climate goals. Jill will talk with Cornell about where this could be done.

6. Future Work:

A. Tourism carbon impact

i. Cruise ships

B. Climate Justice

C. Ground mounted solar array.

7. Items for next meeting. Continue with E and F.

8. Adjournment--Jill moves to adjourn, Tobin seconded. All agree.