

CETF 4/11/22 Minutes
4-5:30pm, Virtual

1. Call to order: 4:02PM
2. Attendance: Brian Booher, Jen Crandall, Ruth Poland, Norm Burdzel, Tobin Peacock, Kristin Murphy, (Laura Berry will be attending later)
3. Approval of [Minutes from 3/28/22](#) (V): Brian moves to approve the minutes from last meeting, Norm seconds, all in favor. No opposed.
4. Adoption of Agenda (V): Ruth moves to add to the agenda that we need to meet in person in May. Norm moves to adopt the agenda as amended. Tobin seconds. All approve.
5. Public Comment? None at this time.
6. Regular Business--
 - A. Quick Updates: (~15min)
 - i. EV Event planning update (Norm)--things are coming together. Site on the ocean at the Bar Harbor Club. Got some advertising going. Contacted EV dealers and vendors. Efficiency Maine will be present and will speak at 11:30. Invite will go to COA, ACTT as well. Seal Cove Auto Museum will bring over 1st electric car. Need to order signage. Asked MDI Spring Water for water donations. Eric Hann needs to finalize the bus attendance. Auto Museum will have an after event. There is funding for banners/signage. Talk to Sarah Giddeon about getting reimbursed.
 - ii. Energy Benchmarking & ICLEI (Ruth)--Johanna has reached out to Tom from ICLEI They are excited to work with us. Ruth needs to reach out to the other towns and get them on board. ACTT will be the central facilitator but it will be coordinated between the town task forces. We need agreement from this task force that we want to spend up to \$1200 for this. Jen moves that we allocate \$1200 for the ICLEI program, Brian seconds. All approve.
 - iii. Suggested [Action Steps & Resources List from ACTT](#) Should this go to the SC? Or do we tackle it as a committee. Tobin says this list should also go to the department heads as well. Ruth wonders if we should advertise for the Sustainability Coordinator position. We need to work with Kevin to get a solid job description ready and advertisement.
 - iv. CETF Position openings; any applicants? We are looking for 2 people. Keep getting the word out there. Laura will also remind folks that there are also positions open for students.
 - v. REC Recommendations to Council idea (Tobin)--The easiest way to come up with a position on RECs is to come up with a statement on paper for folks to agree with or not. It is important that we give something both educational and suggestional to the Town Council before projects are started--like Higgins Pit. Johannah suggested Jim Walsh who has some thoughts about this topic. He can come to the whole group or just talk with Tobin

who can relay the info to us given our tight timeline. Brian asks: did the motion to recommend that Town look at a green energy supplier ever go to the Council? Ruth: Erin said she would talk with Kevin about it. Not sure if it happened. Ruth: Jim could come on May 9th but it is right before presentation to the TC and we might need to use that meeting to get ready for the presentation. Tobin is happy to relay info instead of having Jim join us. Laura: if we sell those RECS we will not be able to offset the ghg. Ruth: we are very aware of that and we need to make that decision and put it on paper as Tobin suggested. Brian: if the Town funds Higgins Pit we are not able to claim a tax credit so we pay 26% more. So maybe we partner with a for profit entity. Nextamp made it sound like the RECs stay with the site owner. Laura: depends on who you work with. Ruth will set aside more time at our next meeting to more fully discuss this. Brian will work with TObin on the RECs position paper.

- vi. COA Class Projects - sub-committee volunteers to meet with communications outreach group? Ruth met with the class last Friday. The students seem really knowledgeable and excited. Laura will send a timeline of actions in Bar Harbor, including historical projects. Liz Morrison is on the communications project. Liz will share a doc with deliverables (basically a website) and want feedback from CETF. Also had a few ideas about community outreach and want feedback before going forward. Need a domain name (which costs about \$20 annually) Norm: can we piggyback on the Town's website? Ruth: IDK, and don't know if there are security issues. Liz: looked into Squarespace. It might be more long lasting to have own website with link to Town site. Ruth: I agree, especially if the site is easy to add to. We should ask Kevin. Jen: agree that the Town website is hard to use. Kristin: we need to look into it because we might need to be connected to Town site due to public information rules. Norm: it is a necessity to have an easy way to get our information out that, especially for education. Tobin: State of Maine's climate task force has stand alone site separate from Maine.gov. Brian: who is going to maintain it? It is easy for a website to languish. It is not the money but the time. The current tool that the Town uses is rich and robust. It is not the tool's fault. The Town has made the site fairly rigid. Ruth: the Town will be hiring a communications person who could help keep a website up to date. Liz: we thought about having an opportunity for a student internship or the student role on the committee could be to maintain the website. Ruth: most of what is on there should be stuff that doesn't change much. Norm: we can have links but a forum would be great where people could ask questions and get info and responses from

anyone on the task force. Ruth: sounds like it would be OK to have a website but just give a call to Liz Graves or Kevin Sutherland. Brian: no barrier to asking Steve Cornell to put stuff on our section of the Town website. Liz also asks for a pic of each person with a short bio so they can add it to the website. Who would like to be a liaison to Liz and Savannah? Tobin: what would be the responsibilities? Liz: just someone we can check in with and make sure what we are doing is OK. Tobin can do that with input from Val. Ruth: it is also always OK to ask for time on the agenda. If a longer conversation is needed then it is good to have a person. Norm: what about giving them 15 minutes on the agenda for an update or during Liz and Savannah's weekly meeting time. 3PM on Wednesdays works for Norm and Tobin. Brian: we can't have more than 2 people work together outside of meeting time. Also worried about information going out there without approval. Ruth: we will all look at the information before anything is published. Norm: yes, we would just be a filter. Laura: the scopes of these projects are meant to be providing work and resources for the CETF to use, not a group that would speak for the task force.

vii.

[CAP v.2](#)

viii.

Topics for Discussion:

1. Kristin: made a comment late and wanted to discuss: integrate high density housing to minimize ghg. Concerned about that one. Laura: one of the reasons that it is included as a recommendation despite the pros and cons is because there are contingencies in zoning with the planning board. Kristin, not sure that it would address the problem considering how densely populated the town is already and we don't know how the housing would be used. Tobin: would have to go along with Laura's take on it because we need to trust the planning board. We drive a lot in Maine and is one of the reasons why transportation is the highest ghg emitters. We need to look at all possible solutions. We need a significant increase of units in town to reduce the amount of ghg due to driving. Jen: no more weekly rental permits will be given out. Ruth: true for new builds but not necessarily true for add ons to one's primary residence. Laura: there are 2 issues and affordable housing is one of them. Downtown is a very different space than Hulls Cove, say. Would it be helpful to specify what we mean when we say dense housing? We left it vague intentionally so as not to cherry pick strategies. Ruth: as far as environmental impact my priority would be denser housing downtown, but denser housing anywhere is better than nothing. Support this as a recommendation but would want more specific language if it

became an ordinance. We would want to add restrictions. Tobin: the best place for dense housing is anywhere there is access to town sewer rather than a bunch of septic systems out in the woods. Infrastructure is important to consider. This does put the pressure on downtown which probably adds heat to Kristin's concerns. Brian: if we just focus on reducing emissions then high density housing is the way to go, but there will probably be unintended consequences. Norm: costs are through the roof and if there is high density housing put in it will probably be too expensive for workforce. We need high density AND affordable, regulated by the town. Laura: affordable and sustainable are the same issue so it is right to look at them under the same lens. There are already many restrictions in planning that would address many of the concerns. I wouldn't put in very specific language at this time since there are other groups working on this issue. Ruth: do we want to red flag this as an area that we want to revisit in our next addition of the CAP. Kristin: still feel like once the land is built on you can't take it back. It creates no yards, no parking. There are so many unintended consequences. Jen: what about including our goal the statement that we are recommending localized workforce housing to reduce ghg emissions from commuting. Laura: it is in there already but I can draft some statements that we can look at before our presentation and make sure that committees working on the housing issue will be able to take our concerns into consideration. Ruth: any other issues from the CAP? Laura: defining local, renewable energy still needs to be defined and clearly stated at the start of the document. Brian: another hot button issue. We are on an island and there is very little that is locally sourced here. How we can locally source all of our electricity? Ruth: understand the sentiment that it is elitist to assume local is better, but so much is lost in transmission so in this case it makes sense. It is also a capacity building issue. It is a town owned and grown issue. Norm: the power requirements to make MDI totally locally sourced power is astronomical. To do it for municipal operations might be possible. Laura: this is why we need to define what we mean by local. We need to make sure that the 100% renewable be part of the plan, and we can add having locally produced by more like 50%?

- ix. Next Steps: who to share with & how to collate feedback? How to get feedback from the public as well as from dept. Heads and committees? Laura, if you could put together a draft with just the strategies and goals to share with others, please keep the comments that are already there. Ruth: is there anyone else we

want to look at it? Jen: ACTT? Norm: isn't this just a town thing? Jax, the Park are more public. Brian: I will send it to my wife but without a formal ask it could be a casual look. It might be useful to get that kind of feedback. Ultimately it is for the Town Council. Laura: Dept heads are probably the most important people to get input from since they know what projects are already happening or if things can't happen for some reason. Kind of feedback: from the public perhaps content/environmental info. Dept heads for logistical feedback. Ruth: this won't be approved right after the presentation (councilors will need to read it and approve at the next meeting) so we can get more public feedback after. Laura: question about approval for a living document. Given that these are recommendations, do we need to get lots of feedback from so many people before sharing it with TC?

B. Current CAP Actions Timeline

- i. 4/11:
- ii. 4/25: Review feedback from Department Heads & Committees that has been received so far. If folks want a person to speak with directly about this, Ruth will ask task force members to talk with them .
- iii. 5/9: Review final feedback and prepare the presentation to Town Council
- iv. 5/17: Present to Town Council

C. Review the [Gantt Chart from CAP v.1](#) - what have we accomplished? What are we behind on? What should our next action steps be?

7. Review & assign "to do" list. **Get comments back to Laura in the next week.**

8. Adjournment: Tobin moves to adjourn. Kristin seconds. All in favor.

Current "To Do" List:

Long-term "To Do":

- Connect with Park & Rec and Cons. Comm. to find commonalities in our plan and the Open Space plan - Millard
- Highlight items from the Capitol Improvement Plan (CIP) that we want to address & bring to the next meeting.
- Better public outreach - website? -> request help from whomever is hired for the outreach role.

CAP Timeline:

3/28 - CETF final feedback discussion w/Laura. Plan collection of feedback

4/11 - Review feedback from outside the committee - do we need to solicit more?

4/25 -