

Task Force on the Climate Emergency
Minutes for meeting 4/26/2021, 3:30 PM.

1. Call to order: Margaret Jeffries, Brian Booher, Tobin Peacock, Jill Goldthwaite, Ruth Poland, Norm Burdzel, Siroh Kumari, Kristin Murphy, Millard Dority, Jen Crandall, Liz Graves
2. Approval of Minutes: approved 7-0
3. Adoption of Agenda: Ruth would like to add updates from last meeting. Motion to accept agenda. Tobin moved, Ruth seconded. Jill, Margaret, Tobin, Norm, Sirohi, Jen, Kristen, Millard, Brian all say Yes!
4. Public Comment. None
5. Regular Business
 - A. Continuing work on Climate Action Plan
 - i. Review sections--Ruth and Sirohi could use some help. To do in this meeting: Scroll through each section, choose a section that you have not already looked at. Type your name next to it for 2nd edit. For each action step, highlight to add comment, ask question, or make a suggestion. Assign responsibility.
 - ii. Review overall document structure. Tobin says the area of Education and Outreach could use a second set of eyes. **Millard will take another look at it.**
 - iii. Identify what's missing/needed to complete. Jill is concerned about waste. Is it part of our focus or just emissions? Ruth says yes it is part of the plan. Scope 3 of the carbon emissions management plan. Margaret wonders if we as a task force could publish and send out to restaurants something about waste reduction? Kristin asked if we could add something to the tourism section. Is there a way we can promote more recycling? Tourists don't have access to our facilities for recycling. Millard: discarded resources is an important issue. Options are expensive. COA has done some research around this. He could ask them to come to our meeting. It is a big problem. We couldn't mandate that restaurants hold onto trash or compost for more than a day. Norm: it is expensive and we (humans) often don't make the expensive decisions. Ruth: if we prioritize our action plans by which cost money and which will save money and do those that save first we will maybe grow good will and a willingness to spend for the other items after free successes. Also, pay per bag or weight is a great way to incentivise waste reduction. ACTT tried this a while ago but there was lots of push back at the time. Kristin has first hand experience with pay as you throw reducing waste. Brian: anything else missing? Sirohi: another thing we need to work on in the action plan is the empty sections. Ruth will do Climate Crisis bit and Sirohi will do declaration bit.

Update on work from last time: Brian spoke with the regional sustainability coordinator for Southern Maine. Asked what she does and what a person for BH would do. She supports individual town coordinators and their jobs and projects.

Jill was not able to meet with the Hancock County planning committee. She did talk to someone at Jax about their new sustainability coordinator and if we could use some of that person's time.

Jen put a few RFP templates in a shared folder that we might use as templates for ours. Also a doc about communities in Maine and what they are doing/need in terms of climate action.

B. GHG Audit

1. Additional recommendations? Norm: we should change *convert* to *investigate*. Tobin suggests that as people look over their sections in action plan, to add the appropriate recommendations from ghg audit Brian: sent around white paper about replacing pumps to sewer treatment plants. This could be a way reduce their electricity and oil use. It bears consideration. Jill suggests that we ask Cornell if anything has been done. **Brian will send Cornell a note and ask if it has been looked at.** Jill says to include Bethany in email. Millard suggests we look to buy green energy(electricity) and then focus on the fuel oil that is being used first. Brian: yes, the trick is where to begin and what to prioritize.
2. Ongoing tracking. It is about time to start collecting the data for this past year. We need to plan that the work is done again. Where do we store the data? Brian in favor of purchasing a tool that is about \$500 a year. Specifically designed for municipalities(iclei.usa.org). Trying to get ahold of someone from southern Maine who has been using the tool and see how it is going. Ruth: Energy Star Portfolio Manager is free. Is good for keeping track of individual buildings. There is another tool that is specific to school and universities. Brian: ESPM not about ghg emissions and the other tool is made available to schools. Tobin: one thing that is appealing is the networking options that come with it.

C. Report on COA Technical Writing Class: Jill--an initial meeting together with fac, students. They are interested and eager. First of 2 check in meetings. The students outlined proposals. They are off and running. Next check in in a couple of weeks.

D. Free or discounted electric permits for EV Chargers, Solar panels or Heat Pump installations. A Town Council member asked me if we thought the town should waive the \$102 fee for an electric permit if the permit was for an EV Charger, Solar Panel or Heat Pump. Norm: thinks it is a great idea for residential applications. Jen: Angie Chamberlain made a good point about town revenue and also where do you draw the line for fees. It is a values issue. What about other folks who pay fees for life-saving things. Tobin: was in favor but is now opposed. Any of these items require significant cash outlay and early adopters are not people who would benefit from a \$100 fee waiver. Why just these programs and not something that a lower-income person would really benefit from a fee-waived? Jill: **take no action.**

E. LD 754, An Act to Promote Municipal Climate Action. BH Council vote and TF on CE actions.-- Concept draft (sponsor doesn't need to develop language until later). To help communities meet climate goals. Jill brought it to Council who agreed that we, the task force, could give testimony. Jill can draft something to circulate to us all for feedback and will present it to the hearing, whenever that gets scheduled. She is meeting with the aid of the legislator who sponsored the bill. Millard moves that we, the task force, **ask Jill to write a draft statement to support bill 754 and circulate it to the group for approval.** Ruth seconds. Jill, Margaret, Ruth, Tobin, Norm, Sirohi, Jen, Kristen, Millard, Brian all vote yes.

F. Discussion of Ground mounted Solar ordinance. Millard: Planning Board and Town Council have public hearings coming up.

6. Items for next meeting. Discussion for new electric standards pertaining to EVs and other. Tobin: New building code coming into effect in July. It might be worth asking Mike Gurtler if he would give us a walk through of how it will affect future emissions in the town. **Brian will ask Mike if he can come to a future meeting.** Should there be something in the CIP to ensure green purchases since they are long term investments and we would lose our window of opportunity to make changes? Jill: Climate Network (MDI towns, islands and Lamoine) members are dropping like flies! They will try to get back together in June. So an update will not need to be on next agenda. Millard: why are we waiting to hire a

sustainability coordinator? There is so much work to be done. **Jen will look at more appropriate RFPs and try to come up with a draft. Brian will ask Southern Maine person to send us their RFP that they used. Millard will contact bigger schools to gather info on their sustainability coordinators and get job description. Jill: we need to warn Council that this is coming. Jill will report to Council about the need for this person.**

7. Task Force Comments. Jill would like to hear about consultant vs hire options at next meeting.

8. Adjournment: Jill moves, Norm seconds. Ruth, Jill, Sirohi, Jen, Kristin, Norm, Millard, Tobin, Margaret, Brian all YES.

Text from Chat: Sirohi Kumar (she/her) to Panelists (3:59 PM)

Link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/12OLFX1vd9f_9pGXP2HB7IBCm54f_6SwkZiRaN-MbLv8/edit?userstoinvite=margarettjeffery@gmail.com&ts=60539d6e&actionButton=1#

Ruth Poland to Panelists (4:24 PM)

Presentation link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1rH7gr6R4ab7pQCJ2oyicjkfBpx_8MgpU6AbhEMR9Bs0/edit

Me to Panelists and Attendees (4:35 PM)

<https://icleiusa.org>

Future Work:

- A. Tourism carbon impact
 - i. Cruise ships
- B. Climate Justice-- acknowledge impact of climate change and its disproportional impact on lower socio-economic groups and the intersectionality with other crises like racial equity. Climate change impacts developing countries exponentially more than developed countries and the developing countries are not the ones benefiting from the use of fossil fuels etc.
- C. Ground mounted solar array.
- D. Community composting.
- E. EV chargers
- F. Town based incentives for new buildings or renovations to exceed code requirements for efficiency, build electric and/or incorporating solar into design. Tax break? Cash back? What could the town actually do to incentivize? Could you forgive the first year of property taxes on a new build if there a solar array of a certain size or all electric house or passive house level insulation? A few thousand dollars might be enough to encourage some best practices.
- G. Public Outreach
 - i. Engage the BH Chamber of Commerce