

Task Force on the Climate Emergency
Minutes for meeting 5/10/2021, 3:30 PM.

1. Call to order: Jen Crandall, Cornell Knight, Brian Booher, Jill Goldthwaite, Millard Dority, Ruth Poland, Sirohi Kumar, Norm Burdzel, Tobin Peacock, Kristin Murphy
2. Approval of Minutes: Sirohi moves, Jill seconds, No discussion, Jill, Ruth, Millard, Sirohi, Norm, Brian all vote yes
3. Adoption of Agenda: Jen moves, Jill seconds. Jill, Ruth, Millard, Sirohi, Jen, Norm, Tobin, Brian all vote yes.
4. Public Comment: none at this time
5. Regular Business
 - A. Continuing work on Climate Action Plan: We need to keep at it. Ruth: maybe we've done all we can as small groups and now it is time to go through as a large group to confirm and refine the plan. We should prioritize the coordinator/consultant position. Ruth and Sirohi did some work on the intro and tasks for a sustainability coordinator. Perhaps we discuss that position first, and then go back to the Action Plan looking at intro, big questions and then refine each action. Do this on own time, please.
 - B. Feedback and what's next re: recommendation that town switch to all renewable electricity supply. Jill: I don't pretend to understand the info that Cornell sent along. Norm: the town would save money. Jill: someone who understands this better than me needs to talk with Cornell about whether or not he needs more info before it goes back to the Council. Brian: our recommendation was that the Town should investigate possibilities. Not sure where the confusion about RECs came from. One of the things Gary F mentioned is that ACTT has been investigating all of this. Beth Woolfolk was invited to speak to us about this. She has done lots of research on solar in Maine. ACTT would like to offer our help to reach out to 3rd party energy providers and provide a comparison of their offers to consider before Higgins Pit is ready. Municipalities often get better deals. BH might get a much better rate. Brian: Norm has recommended that we reach out to the energy broker that the lab has used. Beth: ACTT has no reason to go with one or another and can make a good unbiased recommendation. Margaret: it might be a good idea for Beth to work with the lab's energy broker who will have a ton of information. I would like a better understanding of the difference between recs and tariffs. Beth: certificate or RECs are usually purchased by entities that claim carbon offsets. For instance if Higgins Pit was erected the town would receive recs based on how many kwh the site produced. Tariff credit is another net energy billing credit in a different bracket than residential. The rates are set by the PUC in January. It is what NEXAMP and AMPION use to give tariff credits. Brian: I move that we request ACTT research zero ghg energy sources for the town of Bar Harbor to purchase short term. Margaret seconds. Jill: I really appreciate ACTT's help and hope they coordinate with Cornell so they don't overlap and so all the information is available to the council. Someone still needs to help fill in knowledge gaps to the

council so they understand what they are making a decision on. Beth: absolutely. I was hoping that Cornell was going to be part of this and will reach out to him tomorrow. Another offer is to make a presentation on the different energy offers and try to clarify what they all mean. Vote on the motion: Margaret, Ruth, Jill, Sirohi, Jen, Tobin, Norm, Brian, Kristin all vote yes. Thank you, Beth. Tobin: should it come to us before going to Council? Brian: yes, and Cornell needs to be fully on board. Beth will submit report and presentation to task force first before it goes to council.

- C. GHG Audit – where to next? (ongoing data tracking)-Brian would like our non-existent consultant to take this over. We still need to decide in a data container tool.
- D. Report on COA Technical Writing Class – Jill & Millard--will do another check in with class tomorrow. They will report out to us on May 25.
- E. Brochure on ocean protection on TF website. - Jill--overheard a young lady who came into the library asking if she could post it(Save our Oceans) to the bulletin board. Library is not in a great place. She has it in electronic format and Jill wondered if it could go on our website. Jen: moves that we accept this document to post to our web site, Jill seconds. Jill, Ruth, Millard, Sirohi, Jen, Norm, Tobin, Kristin, Margaret, Brian all vote yes. Jill will get it to Tobin.
- F. Sustainability Coordinator discussion.
 - i. RFP samples from Jennifer, Brian & Millard. Jill: finally reached Jarod P at Hancock County Planning Commission. Planning a climate symposium in June of this year for Hancock county towns. He has money for coastal planning for communities . He could use some of that money to help us with the process of finalizing our plan and/or hire someone to do that. He is willing to come to our May 24 meeting (if we have one) to explain it all to us. Chairmen of the legislative committee for planning in the State of Maine. Ruth: is that money we could use to pay a sustainability coordinator. Jill: no. He could give us good guidance on whether we are ready for hiring someone. It is money for him to work with towns for planning how to deal with climate stuff. Ruth: great idea to invite him. Jen: started an RFP but needs to know are we hiring a consultant to help finish the plan and prioritize our plan, or are we hiring a coordinator to make our action plan come true? Millard: is the council aware that this is in the mix? Jill: the Council doesn't know that we are talking about it right now, but knows that it is the eventual idea. Jill: is the doc a potential description of what we are proposing a person does? Jen: yes. Millard is trying to get job descriptions from other institutions. Tobin: I don't think we are going to get the town to hire a full time person. We need to pursue 2 paths: pursue a consultant to help with plan and lay groundwork for hiring a town employee. Brian talked with someone from York and what they did to get to where they are with a climate action plan. They started with an energy audit of municipal buildings and got 100K in their budget to audit and update

town buildings every year. Retrofitted fire station and put solar on roof. Showed the way for what was possible. A victory for keeping the ball rolling. Fire chief became an advocate, they saw a savings on electric bill. They always have Americorp/Vista volunteer to work with them. That is a possible resource for us. York then made pitch for a permanent sustainability coordinator on staff after a few big wins. It took a lot of time to this to get the ball rolling. Quick and easy early wins are useful. Millard: did you get a job description? Jen: Does it make more sense to have a sustainability coordinator at the county level to help inform us? Jill: agrees and wonders how many small towns can do all of this individually, rather than on a larger scale. Ruth: put in RFP to help us do a big project to help us build capacity for a big win for the town and pave the way for a permanent position. Brian: that is why I pushed for the town to change electric plan. Millard: maybe at CE school is a place where we can make some inroads. Keep that in our sites. Brian: I was on the committee and every design was trying to get to zero emissions. They landed in a combination of gutting and renovating with an addition. The pandemic took the wind out of everyone's sails. Boilers are on the brink of dying. Jen: is the CE student who contacted us working toward this same goal? Sirohi: yes. It is part of an extra curricular project with science teacher but is looking at that plan. Margaret: is there a way we can document the energy we use now and compare it to what we save and use that money to show savings and be used for future efforts? Spencer's report gives us the status quo. As we see savings we can refer back to that to make comparisons. Brian: yes that is why we need to keep up with the ghg audit and updating it for this year. Ruth, did you ever look at those numbers with the information Brian found in the past 2-3 weeks? Ruth: yes, entered fuel oil and elec use from high school. Can't get access to diesel yet. High school eclipses everything else in time. Solar panels got on line halfway through the year we are looking at so it is funky. Haven't updated graphs with info. Brian: Don't we want to look at Town without high school since it is a shared entity? Also there were a few discrepancies that needed to be fixed. Ruth: yes. Millard: we need to remember that energy is energy. If CE needs a new boiler before they are ready to go with a big project, it would be a shame to have them put a big oil boiler back in because it is the easiest solution. Ruth: it is important that we write this RFP. And what we want this person to do is help us finalize our action plan, set up a benchmarking system with whatever tool we decide to use, and to help us to complete a project or 2 (like CE school or the high school) or a municipal building that is one of the most low hanging fruit. Is that what we could use the consultant time for in the next year? Brian: I would like to see them take over the audit and maintain it. Jill: whatever we decide I am

comfortable bringing this to council, but we need something clear in writing. Tobin: I want to second what Ruth is saying. If Jen can put something rough together and we can look at it in the next month or so then we can have something for Jill to present. Jill: does it make sense to have May 24 meeting and focus on that rather than HCPC if Brian is not going to be here. Jen: can put something out before next mtg, Millard is willing to help. Jen will email it around for edits and we can approve it before next meeting for Jill to bring to Council. Mid June is earliest time for Council due to Town meeting on June 1.

- ii. Speak with Sustainability Coordinator for municipality.
- iii. Full time or contract?
- iv. Jill reports to council on need for this position

G. Meeting Tuesday, May 25 (4:10 to 5pm). Would we also meet the 24th? Yes. We could meet to discuss the RFP. Do we want to invite HCPC guy to that meeting? Maybe he could help with job description thing. Jill will invite him to come and help us. Jen: should we still bring a rough draft to the meeting for him to look at? Jill: normally yes, but he might have some ideas on that. Maybe wait before doing a bunch of work. Jill: can I share our plan with Jarod prior to his visit? Yes!

1. Items for next meeting. energy codes and Mike Gurtler--push to future meeting; CIP budget language--push off for now. Update on solar stuff by Millard. Ghg audit data tool.
2. Task Force Comments. amendment to LUO was discussed. There is support but some members are disagreeing on something. There was progress. Margaret joined which was nice. It is moving forward.
3. Adjournment: Jill makes motion to adjourn. Ruth seconds. All agree!

Chat record:

Beth Woolfolk (she, her, hers) to Panelists (3:34 PM)

I'm good!

Sirohi Kumar (she/her) to Panelists (3:36 PM)

And possibly begin going over the parking lot questions

Me to Panelists (4:04 PM)

The Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program was established in 2019 when the towns of Kittery, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Ogunquit, Wells, and York sought to create a regional program to support their individual sustainability and coastal resiliency efforts.

Margaret Jeffery to Me (Direct Message) (4:14 PM)

I apologize for my delay in checking in. I had an emergency extension of a meeting here in the office.

Sirohi Kumar (she/her) to Panelists (4:21 PM)

SC responsibilities:

Action plan finalization

Energy benchmarking system

Help us complete a few projects

- CES solar project

- MDIHS renovation

- Municipal building redo

Cornell Knight to Me (Direct Message) (4:25 PM)

I have to leave but will make you the host.

Ruth Poland (she/her) to Panelists (4:28 PM)

And Higgins Pit solar farm

Sirohi Kumar (she/her) to Panelists (4:40 PM)

Climate literacy

Margaret Jeffery to Panelists and Attendees (4:48 PM)

CETF MEETING ON May 24 and June 14. Council meeting on June 15 and July 20

Me to Panelists and Attendees (4:56 PM)

Beth, did you have a question? (your hand is up)

Ruth Poland (she/her) to Panelists (5:01 PM)

Action Plan: Tasks by Role document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19IED14X3mXNhVwi3SalEJGWraOoe3DaCOyHNNCxK5aw/edit?usp=sharing>

Sirohi Kumar (she/her) to Panelists (5:02 PM)

I have to dip, thank you all!

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