

Task Force on the Climate Emergency  
Minutes for meeting 5/24/2021, 3:30 PM.

1. Call to order: Tobin calls the meeting to order at 3:32PM. Tobin Peacock, Jen Crandall, Millard Dority, Cornell Knight, Jill Goldthwaite, Sirohi Kumar, Margaret Jeffrey, Ruth Poland, Kristin Murphy, (Norm will be late), Jarod from HCPC
2. Approval of Minutes-Jill moves, Millard seconds, Millard, Jennifer, Jill, Sirohi, Ruth, Kristin, Margaret and Tobin all vote YES to accept the minutes.
3. Adoption of Agenda: Jill moves to adopt the agenda, Ruth seconds, Millard, Jen, Jill, Sirohi, Ruth, Kristin, Margaret, Tobin all vote yes to approve agenda.
4. Public Comment.No comment
5. Regular Business
  - A. HCPC conversation with Jarod Farn-Guillette(Hancock County Planning Commission) Jarod presented a slideshow with current and future services. Margaret asks if BH has paid in so that we can access these services? Yes. It's like having a retainer on Jarod and HCPC.
    - i. What services HCPC is able to offer re: climate action planning. The most beneficial service they can provide is technical assistance as it pertains to sea level rise topics. Anything that has a nexus between us and sea level. Such as helping on culvert grant applications, maps, data. Helping write grants around non-source pollution, special projects, or liaison with State planning. Also transportation planning and how to reduce number of cars on road. etc Or even join committees in the future.
    - ii. **How best to fill the role of a Sustainability Coordinator. Hire? Contract?** The Town has to ask itself. Do they want to hire another municipal employee? Any job with benefits will attract strong candidates who will be dedicated to the town. Consultants may have other priorities that they have to focus on. Is this going to be a finite position that will meet goal someday, or a long term role that changes with the changing goals and needs?
    - iii. Your advice on how to solicit help—job description? RFP? HCPC is more than happy to write RFP or job description for us. Jarod can provide templates and examples.
    - iv. Is it possible to regionalize any of this activity in terms of planning or support resources? Very possible. If there is an existing demand throughout the county it is very possible. Very large demand for a sustainability coordinator. Planning is important, especially to be able to access \$ when that will be made available. Ruth: good to hear this. Our group is very focused on preventing carbon emissions (other towns seem more interested in preventing and addressing sea level rise). J: other towns are seeing diminishing budgets and support front the state so their focus is more immediate. Communities are getting older so many towns are concerned about resiliency issues...roads and access to

hospitals. Long term, carbon reduction is important as well. Tobin: how available are you to help us? Jarod: more planning positions than planners. He is only staff at the time, but he is interviewing for open positions. If no one hired in the next month, no. But he does have a list of consultants who are very good.

- v. Your reaction to our draft climate action plan. Not had a chance to read it yet.
  - vi. Questions: Jill: does the State have any resources we could use? Do you connect with the state? J: meets with legislature and has finger on pulse of what is in pipeline. Maine has a great plan in place but no finding or guidance for municipalities.
- B. ACTT Higgin's Pit Solar Feasibility study response from Council. Jill: the Council wants the task force to take on education. Lots of discussion about the site. The other issue that came up, Cornell had some info about cost and complications about signing up for RECs and there needs to be a better explanation for the council and someone who can answer the questions.
- C. GHG Audit – where to next? (recommendation to council? ongoing data tracking)
- i. Audit collection tools like Clearpath or SIMAP? There may be others, spreadsheet tools, etc... . Tom Herrod from Clearpath will give a presentation on the software package. ICLEI-- a non-profit that works with municipalities who are working on sustainability issues. Helped develop a protocol for ghg audits. You store your activity data and the tool does the analysis. It can separate out town use or Town only use. Also has a new tool that incorporates the removal of carbon through trees and land covering (specialized GIS layers). Tobin: would we input data, or do we give you the info and you input the data. Tom: most do the data input, but they can help with how to request the info. Tom is a technical advisor. Ruth: is there any capacity for a green button data? Tom: yes, if you have 20 different buildings there is a way to enter inventory records into a spreadsheet. Ruth: You mentioned monitoring vehicles and compost etc. What are some of the other differences between ClearPath and ESMP? Tom: more customization, vehicles, street lights, very specific info. Ruth: is there a way to compare to other similar towns? Can someone give us advice on how to lower carbon emissions? Tom: yes. Race to Zero. We prioritize actions communities can take to reduce emissions to zero. We can help facilitate a regional conversation. Ruth: is there a real time community interface so anyone can see what we are using or do we need to run a report? T: there are ways to get the info out there, but it is not a public facing, dynamic program. Brian: in York they use ClearPath. They use a Vista volunteer to do the data collection and upkeep of the tool. They input data annually, but it could be done monthly. Not only a tool, but Tom is a resource for us on our goals for climate action. ICLEI Membership also gives access to education/training classes. Tom: it is also a forecasting

tool...what is our emissions profile in 20 years if we do nothing. Tobin: what is the cost? Tom: Prices \$600/year for communities under 50K. This summer going up to 1200 for everything. Always have access to data. Ruth: what other communities? Tom: Camden, Rockland, Bath, Kittery, Kennebunk, Portland some,

- ii. Reactions: Millard: seems like an amazing tool. Margaret: agree. And the fact that other towns are already using tool will allow comparison and possible collaboration. Also like that the planning commission is working on resiliency. They could compliment each other well. If we like them and want to work with them, how would it happen? Brian: the tool is great but there needs to be a person to enter the data. Millard: is the town staff now recording the information when they pay the bill? Is the big job collecting past information? Also, students from COA could be a good resource for recording info into program. Brian: there may have been some efforts in this area a couple of years ago. Spencer largely (with help from Ruth) went to all dept and collected all bills from 2019 and prepared a ghg audit. Done in a Google Sheets doc. We do not have a tool or a procedure to keep this going. Tobin: A) is Clearpath the container we want to use? and B) how do we set up a procedure for entering data regularly? Jen: the forecasting ability of Clearpath is great to help us persuade the Town or community to take certain actions.
- iii. Review audit and present to council
- iv. Add 2020-2021 data for tracking
- v. Hire an Americorps Vista Volunteer for a year to assist with sustainability efforts (update GHG audit, other?) costs about 6K/year. Ruth was an Americorps volunteer and it was great, but there was trouble with the regional coordinator. Not sure what kind of structures are in place here now. Jen: that would be great but we need someone who isn't going to leave and then we need to train another person to enter the data. Ruth: agree. We would still need a coordinator because retraining a new person every year is a waste of time. The ideal person is the person who is paying the bills as it is an inefficiency to send the data elsewhere and have someone else enter the data.
- vi. Ruth: **make motion to tentatively accept Clearpath data once we figure out who will enter the data. We will vote on this next meeting.** Margaret seconds. Jill: the motion should be to recommend it to the Council due to the \$ amount. Also add a statement of why. We need to know what do we need it for? Who is going to manage it? Where is this getting us? Tobin: We have created a snapshot with the audit we've done with Spencer. We've got some time until we get the next year's data added. Ruth: I would be happy to write a statement that could be read to Council about the importance of benchmarking. Millard: maybe it would be better to go to Council with the whole package of a

consultant or hire, and the plan for using the data tool. Margaret: the tool might allow us to take the next steps toward meeting our goals. Jill: is this something that is easy for a town employee to enter data into? That would be important information the Council will want to know. Tobin: let's wait until our next meeting to clarify this before we go to Council.

Items for next meeting. Council voted to reinstate meeting in person. Do we want to do that? Will we be required? Electricity RECs, Mike Gurtler and new electricity codes.

6. Task Force Comments. Don't forget tomorrow's presentation. Norm unable to attend tomorrow.
7. Adjournment-Jen moves we adjourn, Jill seconds. All approve!

#### Future Work:

- A. Tourism carbon impact
  1. 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
  1. Engage the BH Chamber of Commerce