

CETF Minutes 10/24/22

4-5:30pm, Town Hall, Council Chambers

1. Call to order: 4:02
2. Attendance: Joe Minutolo, Jen Crandall, Ruth Poland, Norm Burdzel, Brian Booher, Tobin Peacock, Linneah Goh, Laura Berry, Kaitlyn Burke
3. Approval of Minutes from [9/26/22](#) and [10/11/22](#) (Vote): Tobin firsts, Norm seconds, all approve
4. Adoption of Agenda (Vote): Jen moves to approve the agenda as amended, Norm seconds, all approve.
5. Public Comment? None
6. Regular Business–
 - A. Quick Updates
 - i. Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) Update from Tri-town meeting on Oct. 20th (Ruth)--Tobin, Laura and Ruth met with the folks from the other towns in the CRP grant to discuss what's next. There are lots of events that ACTT has agreed to hold so it would be nice to get a list of those. Climate ambassadors will be starting next week. They are planning 3 listening sessions on CAP 2.0. Norm asks what we applied for to do with the second CRP grant. Laura: electrification of municipal building. Tobin: in terms of tri-town meeting Bar Harbor seems to be a bit further ahead. Laura is going to work with Kevn and the other towns to develop an MOA on how to manage the chargers, insurance, how to pay for them etc. since Bar Harbor is the town that will receive the money for the 3 towns to share.
 - ii. Reminder to attend a [Comp. Plan](#) outreach event:
 1. Tues, 25th, 6-8 at MDI High School
 2. Wed, 26th., 4-6 at Connors-Emerson
 - B. Laura's updates (20min)
 - i. Connors-Emerson Updates?-- Long and stressful process as winter approaches. The heating system is 32 years old and not safe. Likely that it will be replaced with at least one efficient oil burner. Jen: what about the lease option? Laura: because it is more than just a boiler replacement it needs to be a safer, larger project. Brian: is the efficiency going to be better? Norm: the combustion efficiency will be 86% but it is a steam system. Norm: what about propane? Laura: the issue is the installation. It is not worth it for the upfront cost since this is a "short term" fix. Joe: since the heat is pumped underground from one building to the other, there must be a huge heat loss. Can you do heat pumps for the upper building and then reuse them in the new build? Norm: heat pumps don't last long enough to do this. Laura: plus the electrical service at the school is not robust enough for heat pump installations. In the future, looking into electrification for the new building makes sense, but not for now. Ruth: it is an important story for us to be able to tell. This shows that it is worth investing in infrastructure that is efficient, rather than putting things off and then dealing with it when there is a crisis. We don't think about things until we need them, so it will be good to identify now which large fossil fuel using systems/ items need to be replaced soon. Ruth: are we identifying all the things? Whose radar are these things on? How can we avoid this kind of crisis in the

future? Tobin: we need to make sure that there is a plan to keep enough \$\$ in the capital improvement plan to make “green” purchases. Joe: having the CETF means that it is implied in our CIP that the “greenest” solutions are purchased. Building maintenance isn’t part of the CIP. Brian: spending to reduce ghg is worth it even if it costs more. The school board feels left out of the conversation because their budget is separate from the town budget which covers cost of building projects. Laura: that separation is felt in both directions and it would be nice to work together. Joe: there has been money appropriated for a boiler many times over the years. The school budget is the only budget that can have money from one line item be moved to another line or used in another way. It is a bit of a rub for the Council because they don't know how the money gets spent. Laura: it would be great to have an audit of all the municipal facilities, where they are, how they are heated etc. There is no list like that right now. Also, the school does have its own CIP and the town has some say over how it is spent. Big projects go under CIP but maintenance goes under annual budget. **CES discussion** there are 50 different elec accounts. We could use them for procurement for green electricity as well as fuel. Some of our electric and fuels contracts run out soon and Laura will talk to finance director to facilitate new contracts with green sources. Tobin: total aside— is the money in the town’s budget invested anywhere that we don’t want? Like Exxon? Joe: no, BHBT does the lion’s share of the town’s investing. It is public info where the money is invested.

C. GHG Audit Review (Brian)--FY 2021-22 Scope 1 and 2. Who are the biggest consumers? What recommendations do we want to make? Norm: could we get the town staff to track the mileage of municipal vehicles? Brian: why is the sewer treatment plant using so much oil? Can it be audited for efficiency? Laura: it is more than just a building but a process. The water and sludge need to be kept at a certain temp to process properly. Brian: electrical and heating oil are the biggest parts of the chart. Laura: it is not just the buildings and plans, but people. It would be great to have everyone on highway dept staff trained on how to fix an EV. Having folks employed who can be helpful in looking at these items is important, like Eric Hahn for the schools. Joe: if more students would actually ride the bus it would reduce the amount of ghg emissions by parents. Brian: I met with Lynn Hannah (science teacher at Connors) and she is going to have students look at who rides the bus, who gets a ride and compare their emissions as part of the science curriculum. Laura: Eric Hahn says that the electric bus use has been analyzed and it has reduced emissions. There is lots of funding for new electric buses as well. Ruth: it would be good to include the high school numbers and be able to compare them. Laura: talking to ICLEE to see how to allocate emissions from buildings that are on town owned land, like the YMCA. It is a scope question similar to how you slice and dice the emissions from the high school which has students from many towns. Ruth: is there anything we can recommend to the Council now that would make a good impact. Joe: we used to have bike patrol and for the price of an EV you could outfit a whole patrol with e-bikes.

D. Climate Action Plan & Comp. Plan- Next Steps

- i. **Important:** Priorities to recommend to the Council at their Nov. meeting? What should we be asking for money to support Laura’s work? Laura can also bring our ideas to the budget process when she works with Kevin. Norm: green energy procurement, alternative energies like biodiesel. Brian: if we move to looking at community emissions

we need to support public transportation and helping home owners save energy. Tobin: Tremont has money from ARPA to help residents to weatherize and increase efficiencies in their homes. Norm: there is a program for Hancock county that will give low income folks free heat pumps. <https://mainehousing.org/programs-services/energy/energydetails/heat-pump-program> Laura: there could be money recouped from the Higgins Pit project and she would like to have a revolving green fund. Brian: town should put solar panels on every single roof that the town owns. Laura: there is money allocated for panels on the transfer station. Joe: what if we had a fund for solar panels for residents with ARPA money (or similar funds) Laura: even just telling people about the tax rebates would be huge, and creating easy-to-read resources.

1. Wastewater treatment -> EPA program & EfficiencyME custom audit
 2. Green power broker, including looking at biodiesel to replace heating oil.
 3. Solar panels everywhere
 4. Education of resources for funding
 5. Community Scale:
 - a. Public transportation infrastructure
 - b. Residential ARPA funding match to EfficiencyME rebates (project similar to Tremont?) Or some sort of revolving GreenFund to this extent
 1. Share good news: Get miles driven from GEM to see how much they might have saved (Laura will pursue this info)
 - ii. Plan a public "Listening Session" on CAP 2.0 with ACTT? How can we move this forward at the same time as the Comp. Plan? Should we just wait to formalize updates until after the Comp Plan is completed? We can still push ahead with initiatives. Jen: it might be good to get our name out there. Laura: the comp plan sessions that are happening this week are the first ones. There will be more later this winter. The more we can coordinate with the comp plan listening sessions the better. The later ones will be World Cafe style and perhaps we can have a table at one of those. Laura is meeting with Michelle G who is working with a consultant to plan the comp plan events.
 - E. EV charger location discussion—there are a number of locations they have identified. There is also money for municipal chargers at harbor master's building. This CRP grant has sparked this larger conversation about best types of chargers and where.
7. Closing
- A. Review & assign "to do" list.
 - B. Upcoming events: Comp Plan Listening Sessions
 - i. Tues, 25th, 6-8 at MDI High School
 - ii. Wed, 26th., 4-6 at Connors-Emerson—comp plan meetings this week
 - C. Next agenda items : budget items to recommend to the council from our list of priorities. Joe: Nynke Hamm (sp?) is doing a project on transportation and safe trails to the high school. Could she come to do a presentation to us? Ruth can reach out to her.
 1. Adjournment: Tobin moves, Norm seconds, all in favor. 5:34PM

"To Do" List:

- Enter historical carbon emissions data into ICLEI/ClearPath program (Brian & Laura)