

CETF Minutes 11/14/22
4-5:30pm, Town Hall, Auditorium

1. Call to order: 4:01PM
2. Attendance: Jen Crandall, Ruth Poland, Tobin Peacock, Laura Berry, Eben Salvatore, Brian Booher, Linneah Goh, Joe Minutolo, Norm Burdzell, Kaitlyn Burke arrived 4:04PM
3. Approval of Minutes from [10/24/22](#) (Vote): Tobin moves to accept the minutes as written, Joe seconds, all voted in favor.
4. Adoption of Agenda (Vote): Jen moves to adopt the agenda as presented, Linneah seconds, all voted in favor.
5. Public Comment? None
6. Regular Business–
 - A. Quick Updates (5min)
 - i. Community Resilience Partnership (CRP) Update
 1. 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? Should be ready by mid-December. BH has received the money so we need to ensure that the chargers get installed and paid for.
 2. Climate Ambassadors meeting–Ruth and Laura attended and talked about the CAP and our progress. Lots of folks attended. Part of the funding for these meetings come from CRP grant. The hope is that the ambassadors can be part of our outreach and will attend some of the task force meetings . Linneah can mention it at the next meeting (she is an ambassador).
 - ii. School district got 2 new EV buses through state grant. One to the high school and one to an elementary school. Laura spoke with ERic Hahn about who pays for the electricity from charging. An interesting conversation and topic to think about.
 - iii. Connors-Emerson report from Community Forum? Everyone had solar and ghg on their list of things of things to focus on. Norm says that Christy Losquadro said only funding is coming from the town with no state funding and costs have gone up 100% since the plan was first drawn up. Laura is going to talk with the architects and Eric to make sure they know about grants and State funding for solar and other energy efficiency projects.
 - B. Eben Salvatore’s update on GEM season (15min)Company was launched 14 months ago. 45 vehicles total 10 6 seaters, 30 5 seaters, 15 of 2 seaters. Lithium batteries in the 6 seaters. Gel batteries for 4 and 2 seaters which was a mistake because they had less power than necessary and if one died the whole string died. They are going to swap out for next year. Lots of folks left cars at hotel. Next step is elec cars that can go to and from airport. Visitor experience was great. Tourist education is the number one issue besides the breakdowns. Needing to also work with the park to increase signage so folks don’t get lost or go where they

shouldn't. They take very little energy. The company now sells Gems with solar panels on the roof. Brian: are you increasing fleet next year? Eban: depends on if the cruise ship things goes through. Maybe elec vehicles or Gems in other towns on the island. Brian: do you need any infrastructure from the Town? ES: chargers at hotels increasing is good; line of site at intersections, awareness. Laura: have you talked with Paul from Downeast Transportation or Tom Crickelair about getting folks down here from Bangor without them renting a car at all? Getting folks informed that they don't need to rent a car at all would be great. ES: long term renters of the Gems was great and more of those would require fleet expansion. Jen: number of miles driven? ES: over 100,000. Brian: do you feel that the 25mph road limit makes sense? ES: they are by design to be low speed and if one got hit at 35 mph or higher would not be good. There are a few places on the island that prevent island-wide use, but a few key places could be adjusted which would then allow the Gems to get to other towns or other parts of the Park. Bike lanes. Laura: would love to see the map the folks get when they rent to analyze the places where issues are. Kaitlyn: what % is from cruise ships ES: about 1/2. Kaitlyn: What is the price? \$200 1/2 day or \$350 full day Norm: this needs to be in the national news Joe: what are the options for getting clients to BH without renting a car? Options seem slim. Would Island Explorer be willing to run a shuttle? It would be great to partner with someone or some company who can get folks here. Norm: what if you had a fleet of Chevy Volts, with half at the airport and half here that could go back and forth. Brian: effective public transportation is almost always gov't subsidized. Laura will be talking with Paul from Downeast Transportation next week and will bring this update to him. Things will be shifting. Norm: we'd love to know the final count of mileage. ES: 250 gel batteries available with 75 amp hours a piece. Could be great for a project for the schools or town.

C. Laura's updates (20min)

- i. EV charger locations? Greg from G and G had hip replacement so haven't had a chance to get out with him to look at sites. Norm would love to give his 2 cents about where to install them. Laura: Priority is to make them accessible to public but mostly year round folks and where folks who might not be able to install their own would be able to access them.
- ii. Other—working with CES since last week. 48 active elec accounts and 2millions kwh a year. Working with CES to get all that info uploaded. Ruth: doesn't include 5 electric services at the high school. For Conners-Emerson the town is the customer but the school pays the bill. Who should be making the decisions about who negotiates the costs etc. Ruth: could CES wrap in a separate owner into overall accounting? LB: not sure it works like that. Depends on who Versant sees as the account owners. Higgins Pit will be level 4 not a level 2 so the process is going to take a bit longer in terms of working with Versant. Expect to be on line Jan/Feb 2024. 7 year pay back time with the Inflation Reduction Act credit. Ruth: do the grants and state funding require an active comp plan? It got in the way of a grant we tried to get a bit ago. Laura: hopefully we will have an approved comp plan soon-ish (next fall?) Brian: can I help with GHG audit?

Laura: Versant is being slow about getting data back to us. Also there was a bug in the ICLEE platform. Just waiting for all the data. Brian: willing to write a program to pull the data once we get the spreadsheets.

D. Budget Recommendations next steps...(30)

i. Present recommendations to Kevin & on Town Budget? Present reasoning for our recommendations to the Town Council? Brian: would like to see each department prioritizing energy efficiency in their budgets to that it is NOT our budget recommendations but a regular part of the process. Laura: that is how it has been up to this point. Energy and building renos are listed out separately. There might be some benefits to making specific recommendations to various depts for their budgets. The more specific we can be about recommendations the more likely a project gets funded. Do we want the Town to have a sustainability budget? We are getting to the point of having a holistic vision of projects in part because of having a sustainability coordinator. Joe: it would be good to have a document with a consolidated list of what projects we want to do, what have been done and what in in process. Brian: the ghg audit will do that. Joe: thinking more of the \$\$ for all of these projects. Brian: the Town committed to net zero by 2030. That is not a lot of time. We need to front load this so we aren't scrambling in 15 years. Joe: we need to see it on paper because there might be money already allocated to certain projects. It would be great to do one big project at a time and knock it off the list instead of little bits here and there. Ruth: Laura, what are the projects that could use \$ to make it happen now that we can make recommendations to the council? Do you, Laura, have suggestions? Laura: the biggest sources of investment for the Town will be supported by State and federal funding. Transportation and heating are the biggest ghg emitters but also the biggest upfront cost for replacement. An increased electric fleet would require fast chargers. It makes it harder to get a quick win because they take longer term planning. Will talk with Kevin next week about budgeting stuff and will then bring ideas back to task force with ideas. Ruth: we just don't want to miss the window for making budget recommendations. Brian: happy to be a brainstorm listener. Getting rid of fossil fuel using things is a priority over adding solar panel. Happy to talk with Norm about crunching numbers to see what oil burners could be replaced and what replacement with heat pumps would save

ii. Priorities listed from last time:

1. Wastewater treatment -> EPA program & EfficiencyME custom audit
2. Green power broker (underway with CES), including looking at biodiesel to replace heating oil. Need to make sure it doesn't void a warranty. Norm: CES can help with procurement as well.
3. Solar panels everywhere—
4. Education of public for resources for funding own projects
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 (from Higgins Pit savings?)

1. E-bike patrol?
 2. Share good news: ie Gems and miles saved
- E. Discussion of communications between towns, ACTT, CETF and town staff (20min) We were working on figuring out ICLEE payments and have 3 towns' data that could be looked at separately. Laura and Kevin had determined that it would be better for BH to have its own account. The info didn't get to ACTT and the invoices got screwed up. There was a miscommunication that caused a bit of a to-do. How do we keep the lines of communication open? Kaitlyn: what is in place now? Laura: there are tri-town meetings. Kevin wasn't aware of the agreements and there was a timing issue. But we need a clear path of communication between ACTT, CETF, Town Council and Kevin especially with CRP grant. Tobin: it was a timing thing but going forward we need to be careful that something like this doesn't happen going forward. We need to be proactive in communication. Jen: would it make sense to have Johanna be on the email list that receives the minutes? YES!
7. Closing
 - A. Review & assign "to do" list.
 - i. Present recommendations to Kevin & on Town Budget? Present reasoning for our recommendations to the Town Council?
 - B. Next agenda items : Norm: we are still missing public outreach informational education... we need a website update.
8. Adjournment: Jen moves that we adjourn the meeting, Norm seconds. All in favor. 5:35PM.

"To Do" List:

- Planning a public "Listening Session" on CAP 2.0 with ACTT?
 - 'World Cafe' table during Comp Plan session later this year?