

Energy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Town Office or on Zoom @ 4:30 pm

Committee members present: Victoria Boundy, Nancy Chandler, Jackie Cressy, Victor Langelo, Nick Whatley (Chair for this meeting).

Others: Skye Siladi, Planning Director; Meg Rasmussen, MCOG; Julia Maine, FB; Jeanette McNeil, member of public

Started at 4:03pm

Jackie introduced herself as a new member.

Invitation for Public Comment - None

Approval of [6-25-24 meeting minutes](#); Victor, Motion to approve; Nancy 2nd, AIF

Old Business:

1. CAP Public Workshop #1 debrief with consultants

- Discussions were super lively, people engaged, lots of ideas.
- Jackie: It was a bit overwhelming as a new member. The physical vulnerability table was easier to wrap my head around than social vulnerability. The conversation didn't stay on topic but there was great energy.
- The group discussed getting a new, larger meeting space for the November workshop. If it happens at the Town Office, it can spill out into the hallway.
- Interesting to think about social vulnerability as a mappable concept. Members had questions about sources for social vulnerability data.
- Julia can share the notes (she offered in response to a question about what the hot topics were).
- Julia: Has some thoughts about structuring the November workshop differently. Presentation style seating followed by poster board setup in the hallway.

2. Intro to Greenhouse Gas Assessment (Meg)

Meg provided highlights in a Powerpoint presentation:

- Provided some definitions of GHG, Community-Wide GHG Inventory, Municipal GHG Inventory (things under control of municipal government), benefits of reducing GHG emissions.
- Community-Wide: In 2021 Topsham generated 108,808 Metric Tons of CO₂e.
Community wide sectors
 - Not much from waste
 - Transportation and stationary energy (consumption in fixed locations) are about equal.

- Transportation - passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, public transit (about 2%)
- Stationary energy: Residential fuel oil and kerosene - largest. Residential electricity, commercial/industrial electricity, commercial/industrial/natural gas are largest.
- Municipal operations: 748 Metric Tons of CO₂e
 - Transportation and Stationary Energy about equal
 - Transportation: Public Works greatest, followed by Police Dept.
 - Stationary: Municipal offices (60% natural gas, 40% electricity)
- Summarized municipal efforts to date
- Strategies for reducing GHG emissions
- Will include MTA research in the Appendix.

Questions: Jeanette asked about a particulate impacting air quality. It is not one of the highest priority GHGs in the “Clear Path” program.

Skye will upload the full report to the Committee Google Drive after she reviews it, so the group can look at it.

3. Intro to Physical Vulnerability Assessment (Julia)

Goal for the 2nd workshop will be about reviewing and prioritizing the climate action strategies. The VA and GHG assessment will be presented on; not sure whether SV assessment will be part of it. People will visit boards with action strategies and use sticky dots. It will be less formal and structured.

- FB Environmental is using a climate action planning matrix created by SMPDC. Julia will share the actions/strategies with this group at the October meeting.
- Erosion vulnerability and saltmarsh migration around Muddy River ([map](#))
- Stormwater vulnerability - stormwater runoff at Topsham Fair Mall, in particular; impervious surfaces; urban impaired stream watersheds ([map](#))
- 3 maps showing flooding vulnerability - showing current vulnerability, not future. A lot of the land trust/state land overlaps with vulnerable flood-prone areas so the town should consider expanding protection in these areas. (Victor will share info about where the town is prioritizing protection to add to the map.)
- Flooding potential of two industries on Lewiston Road that might also have environmental concerns. Ivanhoe Drive and Bay Park neighborhoods - two areas that people are having groundwater concerns that future flooding could exacerbate.
- Flooding vulnerability/sewer infrastructure ([map](#)). Vulnerability concerns related to sewer infrastructure are pretty low overall.
- Flooding vulnerability/water ([map](#)). Not a huge concern for vulnerability.
- Sea Level Rise Vulnerability ([map](#)). Used 3.9 feet (L/T) and 1.6 feet (S/T) as recommended by Maine Climate Council. As Topsham is at end of tidal influence of river, new SLR models coming from the state could be helpful, but this is the data we

have currently. There is minimal S/T vulnerability for Topsham for SLR. L/T vulnerability is mostly a concern around the Muddy River.

- Heat Island Vulnerability [map](#).
- Water supply vulnerability [map](#).

** Julia will send the draft to the committee and we can review it and send input to Skye by Monday, 10/7.

Julia: Reminder that new Community Action grants are due in December.

4. Review and Approve [Annual Update to Selectboard](#)

Tabled

2nd Invitation for Public Comment:

Motion to adjourn: Victoria motioned, Victor 2nd, AIF. The meeting adjourned at 6:18pm .

SAVE THE DATE:

2nd Public Engagement Session to Prioritize CAP Actions on Mon. Nov. 18 @ 6:30PM

Reference items:

[community engagement plan.](#)

[outreach contact list](#)

2nd Invitation for Public Comment: None