

Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
Town Office or on Zoom @ 4:30 pm

Minutes

Attendance: Victoria Boundy, Yvette Meunier, Victor Langelo, John Berry, Nick Whatley; Skye Siladi, Nancy Chandler

Guests: Meg Rasmussen, MCOG; Ryan Holmes, Selectboard

Invitation for Public Comment: Ryan introduced himself as a guest.

Approval of [12-26-23 meeting minutes](#).

John - Victor; Jon - 2nd, AIF

Update on electric school buses:

This Thursday, the School Board will vote on a document acknowledging that the school may be applying for the grant. A survey has gone out by the school district to the parents, and folks have testified in person and in writing. Yvette has provided information from various sources to the school. Superintendent created a website.

Electric school buses have a 15 -year lifespan. Maintenance costs and fuel costs are much lower. Quieter, less air pollution. If battery cells are replaced; it is a learned maintenance procedure.

Ryan: What would the training costs be? Who are the manufacturers?

Update on 1/16/24 Selectboard update:

Skye gave them an update on what we are doing and the status of the consultant process. There were no questions.

Finalize the CAP [Survey](#):

The link was sent out to EC members. Skye opened the survey and there was some discussion on it. It had an estimated 12-minute completion time.

Suggested revisions:

- #3: Get rid of this one.
- Discussion of #4: Climate related issues you have experienced recently – move to an ‘optional’ section? It is an important question to learn from community members about their concerns. There was discussion about streamlining this question – perhaps just ask 1-2 questions.

- #5: The ranking question takes a lot of time – it will be changed to “Check all that apply.” Take out “Pollution.” Take out “Municipal” as it is covered under “Infrastructure.”
- #6: Move down to a second section.
- #7: Take out and #8 and just have a question that asks about places people are concerned about. Use maps in person at public meetings but maybe the map in #7 isn’t so useful.
- #9: Take out first sentence (is leading). Reword the bullet options and take out the word “aggressive.”
- #10: Change 3rd column to “Would like to but can’t afford”; take out “plane travel” option
- Take out #12

Places for survey drop box:

- American Legion
- Topsham Public Library
- School Board (MTA wants to distribute in February)

Discussion of CAP consultant interviews and draft recommendation:

The Committee looked at the initial ranking. Siler is out of the competition (were not interviewed) so the committee was looking at FB, Kleinfelder, and Wright-Pierce. There was some discussion about the interviews, and the consensus among the Energy Committee was the following:

1. FB Environmental
2. Kleinfelder
3. Wright-Pierce

Yvette shared the letter she was drafting for the Selectboard about why the Committee had consensus about FB Environmental and Committee members helped finalize it.

Public Outreach Plan - next steps:

We decided to table this for the February meeting. Yvette: Green Steps at Highland Green, 2/1

2nd Invitation for Public Comment: Member of the public left early. No public comment.

Motion to adjourn – John, 2nd by Nick. Meeting adjourned at 6:21.

Reference items:

[community engagement plan.](#)

[outreach contact list](#)

[Community Resilience Partnership CAP grant application](#)

[Current Climate Action Plan](#)