

Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
Town Office @ 4:30 pm

Attendance: Victoria Boundy, Yvette Meunier, Nancy Chandler, Skye Siladi, Victor Langelo, Jared Wildwhistle, John Berry

Guests: Susan Preece, Topsham Library & Meg Rasmussen, MCOG

Invitation for Public Comment -none

Approval of [9-26-23 meeting minutes](#)

1st Nancy, 2nd John, AIF

New Business

1. Discuss EV presentation at the Library with Susan

Susan: Thank you (and the Trustees) for the support of the EV grant. Had 13 charge sessions since starting on 9/30. 1st day: 9 charges. 10/10-10/18: Made \$6.42 in revenue. Profit of \$2.91. The billing is quarterly, so this fall will be slower; will have a better sense in the spring about usage and costs. 9 hours of electricity have been delivered to date. Saved 3.6 gallons of gas. Nancy asked, how can we share this information? Information at Highlands? Signage? Susan: Have a program by the Energy Committee in the winter? Susan is ok with a slow rollout. Yvette: There have been social media posts, shared by The Cryer and others. National Library Week in April or Earth Week - other events?

2. Election of Officers

Term limits: Will revisit. Nominations for Chair (AIF): Yvette is willing to continue to be Chair. Vice Chair (AIF): Nick (not present). Secretary (AIF): Victoria.

3. Questions for MTA

Teacher at MTA - reached out to Julie. She suggested working with the Energy Committee on the CAP. Yvette came up with some ideas around carbon sequestration (are we living within our own carbon means?). How do the concepts fit in with their curriculum?

4. Soft launch of Climate Action Plan with Meg. MCOG has a signed contract and they're good to go.

- Some basics:

- Did a round of introductions with Meg.
- What are we all hoping to achieve? Community engagement, data to back up engagement, engaging youth and underserved populations, positioning Topsham as a leader in this issue, finding high impact actions to move forward.
- The 6 project tasks (prelim project schedule in project Google subfolder). Skye shared the project schedule with who's responsible and deadlines.
 - i. Community Engagement
 - ii. Hire a consultant - draft a scope of work and hold series of interviews, and recommendations to town

- iii. Infrastructure access and socioeconomic assessment: Data heavy; looking at populations most vulnerable to climate change
- iv. GHG Inventory and Emissions Reduction Target Setting - Updates and changes from prior CAP; includes municipal GHG inventory
- v. Climate action planning: community engagement and design thinking. The consultant will be very engaged in this. A report, with the goal to get SB approval at Town Meeting, May 2025.
- How things get communicated between me and Jessica, the committee and staff. How decisions will be made. Who is responsible for getting timely input and approvals from the select board and other town staff when needed.

Yvette will be the point person with MCOG. Skye/Town staff will be copied on everything. Meg asked about how we make decisions and Victor responded that we'll vote on major decisions. If it's financial it will go to the Selectboard; Skye can escalate things 'up the ladder' (timely input and approvals from other Town staff if needed). Keeping Derek (T.M.) in the loop and getting his input at key places would be good. Yvette got some templates via GPCOG that will help us obtain data and information from Town staff, etc.

- Community Engagement
 - Community Visioning - articulating (in writing) the purpose, scope and goals of the visioning process.

Ideas from the committee:

- To scope how the community feels, to solicit information about where community members are in regards to climate change.
 - To empower people to talk about and learn about climate change.
 - Showing people visuals and simple illustrations to impart information.
 - Aspirations: Carbon neutral.
 - Focusing our energy on solutions.
 - Climate Table has provided a lot of information about how to communicate about climate change, and language that resonates with people.
 - Sustainability: what do you need for this to be a more sustainable place to live? To be able to continue to live here.
 - Frame it as an opportunity - through this planning project we will have an opportunity to better everyone's lives (not just how climate change will impact our lives negatively).
 - Fostering positive solutions that we can take as a community.
- Community Engagement Plan (You have already started some of this)
 - i. Who are the audiences?

- ii. Why are they being engaged?
- iii. When should they be engaged?
- iv. How will you reach them?
- v. What actions can we take to make sure the engagement plan is equitable?
- vi. Does this plan align with your capacity?
- Reviewing data on community organizations, businesses, local leaders, decision-makers and demographic groups (outreach contact list).

Skye shared a community engagement plan template that Meg drafted (VB has a more detailed example that we could look at too). Reason for contact, when, audience, how, lead, notes. What are the key messages going to be?

Jessica Brunacini will help us out with this too.

2nd Invitation for Public Comment - none

Nancy: Motion to Adjourn, John 2nd, AIF