

Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023
Town Office @ 4:30 pm

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

Guests: Meg Rasmussen, MCOG; Jessica Brunacini, CBEP/Maine Sea Grant

Invitation for Public Comment - none

Approval of [10-24-23 meeting minutes](#) (Victoria; second by Victor, AIF)

Community Engagement (60 minutes)

- Developed a Project Summary based on CE scope of work included in the [Community Action Grant](#) – Meg

Meg passed around a handout (project summary); also on Drive.

Meg also put up a diagram outlining the community engagement program that is part of the Climate Action Plan, and everyone's different roles. The EC is front and center on CE (the ambassadors/bus drivers who will develop and execute the Community Engagement Plan. The other members of the Team (Meg and Jessica) will be engaging and will also be supporting us (the Town Team). Jessica will do the assessment of socially vulnerable populations. The consultant will look at town assets and their vulnerabilities to climate change. MCOG will facilitate and provide guidance.

It will be important to stay within the Scope and the # of hours, as well as the town's capacity.

- Discuss connections between community engagement and social vulnerability assessment – Jessica

Jessica is a Coastal Resilience Specialist with MSG and CBEP; special focus is social equity and serving socially vulnerable populations. Much of the social vulnerability work in Maine so far has used quantitative data from the Census. This is not usually very accurate when you ground-truth it. Jessica shared the Maine Social Vulnerability Index. We'll look at Census data as a starting point but it is during the CE process that we will learn more, including agencies and organizations that serve these populations. Maine Climate Council Equity Subcommittee "priority populations" was shared. SV will go hand in hand with CE.

- Develop community engagement plans (including why who, how, and when) – Jessica

Jessica asked where we are at with thinking about community engagement. Victor: The previous plan was under the radar. We want to do more than share data but ask what people are thinking and feeling. Nick: We need to “get it on the map” so people are aware. Yvette: In planning/worry mode – what are we going to do and when? Nancy: How will we reach more socially vulnerable folks (e.g. Brunswick/Topsham Housing, trailer associations, etc.)? We will have to go to those groups. What is the purpose of engagement in this project? Victor: We have to get this through Town Meeting.

Jessica outlined the 5 W's of Planning for Participation: Why, Who, What, When, Where. She provided a slide with some ideas of why we seek participation. **Spectrum of Participation: Ignore – Inform – Consult – Involve – Collaborate – Defer to** Jessica asked where the EC falls in this spectrum, and the consensus was **Involve** for the scope of this project, but perhaps moving further along the spectrum with the follow-up efforts. Nancy: Would like to know what folks in town are struggling with and challenges, so we need to do a lot of listening. John: We can't “involve” without doing some education first.

Things to think about:

- Procedural equity (definition): The Maine Climate Council and Equity Subcommittee highly value this.
- When does participation happen? (Frequency, Project Phase, Timing)
- Locations (how seating is arranged, etc.)
- How we broaden engagement and participation.

Yvette: We need to have a script. Victor: Having data will help. Victoria: Start filling calendars with existing meetings (Highlands, library, etc.). Nick: Town Dump is a good place to talk to people. School vote is good for talking to families, as well as library and soccer practices. Jessica: Build on engagement strategies that you have already done and that work.

INVOLVE: Make this our goal; long-term alliance building.

- Brief intro and overview of [Connecting on Climate guide](#) - Jessica

Could be useful to do a survey to find out where community members are at, and then tailor the communication to them in language that they will understand and connect with.

Community Engagement Actions – A Brainstorm (Meg):

- Tabling: Surveying people, gathering information; sharing information/data, collecting contact information (Victoria will look at community group calendars/events)
- Look at Brunswick survey and adapt (Yvette will find out how Brunswick got the survey out with the schools) (Victor will take the first crack at drafting a survey)
- Flipchart idea: Is climate impacting you?
- Highlands, Library, Transfer Station – all places that we can go to now
- Look at Brunswick Social Media posts
- Make a logo, catchy saying, etc. – look in Canva (Skye)

Hiring a Consultant for Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Action Planning (30 minutes) - Meg

- Scope of Work

Meg shared an outline of the RFP for consultant (the full scope of work is in the Drive):

1. Data gathering and existing document review
2. Community engagement: facilitate discussion; gather input; prioritize actions
3. Vulnerability assessment
4. Climate Action Planning: Integrating all the different parts of the process

- Hiring Process

12/19: Proposals due. The Team will evaluate the proposals. We will select 2-3 to interview; the Team will make a recommendation to staff, then to Town Manager, then Selectboard. Part of the 12/26 agenda should focus on reviewing and discussing proposals. The Team will be part of the consultant interviews at a separate meeting after 12/26.

Reference items:

[community engagement plan.](#)

[outreach contact list](#)

[Community Resilience Partnership CAP grant application](#)

[Current Climate Action Plan](#)

2nd Invitation for Public Comment: No members of the public present.

Victor motion to adjourn, Nick 2nd, AIF. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.