

Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2023
Conference room or online @ 4:30 pm

Attendance:

Committee members: John Berry, Nancy Chandler, Victoria Boundy, Yvette Meunier, Jared Wildwhistle, via Zoom: Nick Whatley and Victor Langelo.

Staff: Skye Siladi & Julie Erdman (Planning Dept.)

Invitation for Public Comment - none

Approval of 3-28-23 meeting minutes - John 1st and Victor 2nd All approved as amended.

Agenda Additions - None

Invitation for Public Comment

Updates

1. Community Action Grants - CRP grant just released with a 7/7/23 deadline. Priority for grants will be based on those who have not yet applied for a grant. Looks like enough in the grant to fully fund 22 projects. Not sure how many applicants there will be that have not yet applied for a grant. Federal government rebates are \$2500 for commercial mower purchases, not yet available for towns
2. EV Charging at Library - There is a 4-week backorder for the charging station. Susan Preece has asked and was granted a 4-month extension for a September installation. The library plans to have an open house on Sat. Sept. 30th from 10-noon. The energy committee is invited to come and talk to people about the charging stations and how they will work, and find someone to demonstrate an ebike. We plan to have multiple "stations" for people to learn about the library—teens, kids, adults, The Friends, the Board, etc. EC can talk about EVs, and chargers, Assuming it is finished, it might be nice to have your committee talk about the partnership, etc. Midcoast Council of Governments might come with a green energy display.

Old Business

1. Climate Action Plan CRP [grant application](#) review.

We are looking for volunteers to draft up the following sections:

1. Project Need EC wants to update our 2013 very basic Climate Action Plan to include resiliency, no real good mapping of low areas in town that will be impacted by increasing numbers of the 3 to 5 inch storms we got last month. Topsham has lots of power lines that start at substations. If lines go down, what action can be taken to get power to Winter Street.

2. No Maine agency has data on level of rise of streams after heavy rainfall. Vulnerability analysis should include flooding risk in relatively rural parts of TOP where many low-income people live.
3. Short, medium, and long term plans and which department is responsible for them.
4. Community Engagement and Equity Considerations
5. Get letters of recommendation in by mid-June. We need to take inventory before our next meeting.
 - a. Becky - Yvette
 - b. Eloise - Nick
 - c. Comprehensive Planning Committee - Julie
 - d. Victor Conservation Committee
 - e. Selectboard - Julie
 - f. Victoria will write a template for all to use
 - g. BTLT board Nick
 - h. John CREA, Highlands
 - i. Fire chief, Chris Mc Laughlin, EMT services Julie
 - j. Public Library- Yvette

John 1st, Victoria 2nd, AIF adjourn at 5:51PM