

Energy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 27, 2023
Zoom @ 4:30 pm

Attendance:

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

Staff: Skye Siladi (Planning Dept.) and Meg Rasmussen (Midcoast Council of Governments)

Invitation for Public Comment - none

Approval of 5-23-23 meeting minutes - Victor 1st and Nick 2nd. All in favor.

Agenda Additions - None

Invitation for Public Comment

Old Business

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

Yvette - Thank you to Nancy, Victoria, Victor, and Jared for drafting sections and offering feedback on the grant. Also, thank you Victoria for drafting a template letter of support. And thanks to Nick, Julie, John, and Victor for helping to secure letters of recommendation from Rep. Jauch, Senator Vitelli, the Selectboard, the Highlands, CREA, the Fire Chief, the Conservation Commission, the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee, and the Library. for helping secure letters of recommendation

Meg from Midcoast Council of Governments reviewed the EC's draft of our 2nd Community Resilience grant application to GOPIF and added details to beef up Vulnerability work. She thinks it is a good application and that Gabe McPhail says round 2 will be very competitive. Robust community engagement is essential. Meg aims to build support, engagement, and involvement at beginning of process, to get deeper level of risk assessment that concern local residents and businesses. Survey to be created early in the process, better after listening to meet people where they are, tabling and social media with exciting, fun pictures. Meg suggests that what has worked already to get community input should inform next community outreach.

By including Jessica of Casco Bay Estuary Partnership we will get in-kind work worth \$4,500 to do risk assessment for free. Jessica Furachini has a background in Casco Bay Partnership and Sea Grant on involving marginalized communities.

GHG inventory will be done like last time using ICLEI software platform that measures GHG emissions.

Victor - Topsham Library and Conservation Committee will help with outreach and engagement as able, so Library should be asked to be a partner.

Nick- BTLT would have to consider whether they want to be a partner for our Resilience grant. Brunswick Topsham Land Trust(BTLT) completed a comprehensive plan recently that includes resilience planning. He expects to get their approval before the grant deadline June 30.

John - Committees at the Highlands will want to help with outreach, but not as a partner. Have a meeting with Highlands and Highland Green for community input. CREA will continue to be a partner in our work as the Educational wing of BTLT.

Meg - Narrative will include using Mt Ararat and Woodside School principals in our community engagement. How much time are EC members interested in making to engage in arranging meetings, attend meetings, or put together a database?

Victor - Topsham's Comprehensive Plan includes access to nature, wildlife, habitat risk, flooding is an economic risk as well as a threat to people living in low areas. Town has decades old mapping as to how sea level rise will affect town, is it in GIS data? Survey of culverts done with list of important ones to fix, major ones were replaced with larger culverts.

Victoria - Community assessment process can be iterative to get to a scope of priorities. Priorities are to update previous GHG emissions.

Meg - Other sources of funding we could apply to may be Coastal Communities.

Victoria offers to use social media for community outreach, banking up a series of posts on facebook, be strategic about how to target requests of public input to resilience study. Public evening meetings haven't attracted many participants. Victoria to create a QR code to post on social media.

Jared - Do we need help in collecting ICLEA data, someone who has done this before and has connections with CMP, Downeast Energy could get data fastest. Lots of follow-up needed.

Victor - Update of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) doesn't need a lot of data and could be contracted most efficiently by someone with experience in obtaining MDOT transportation, and gallons oil delivered in our zipcode.

Meg - Focus our vulnerability assessment on issues of most importance to our members, tailoring our work scope to our capacity. Allotted 94 hours for town for community engagement. Would this be mostly Town planning staff? Could EC do half this work of initial visioning time?

Yvette - Yes, It will be our priority for the next year. EC will be involved in writing the CAP using the new data.

Nick says tabling is a good way to find out what concerns people about climate change. Could build support for a larger meeting at the library.

Victor - Conservation Committee invited people thru email and town website got 10 to 15% on two surveys. Use electronic platforms to get public input. GHG inventory Get information that can be presented visually push out and have people interact with it.

ACTION: Next steps, get info from Julie on costs, signed by town manager, then submit to the state.

ACTION: EC members start a shared spreadsheet with everyone we want to get involved in this project. Skye to put a phone and email for the person to contact at each organization.

Victor moved to adjourn, and Victoria seconded. All in favor. The meeting ended at 5:36PM