

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Meet in upstairs conference room and via Zoom @ 4:30 pm

### Roll Call

Present: In person: Mark Waltz (staff), John Berry; Yvette Meunier, Nick Whatley, Nancy Chandler; Victor Langelo, Jared Entwistle

Absent: Jenn Curtis;

Invitation for public comment

Motion to approve 7/26/22 minutes made by John Berry and seconded by Victor.

### Old Business

#### 1. Update from Nancy

##### a. MSAD 75 Adult ed weatherization program (free classes)

i. Two part virtual program. 10 participants so far from Topsham, Freeport, and Brunswick. Efficiency Maine, Habitat and Window Dressers. 6:30 - 8:00 Wed Aug 3 and Aug 10.

##### b. Electric school busses

i. MSAD75 didn't get its federal application number in time to apply to the EPA Clean School Bus program this year. They will continue looking for additional grant opportunities. However, they did replace some older diesel buses with non-diesel options that are more environmentally friendly.

#### 2. Update from Planning Dept.

##### a. LED streetlights

i. Work is ongoing, the contract to purchase lights from CMP should be signed soon and installation should occur in October. Affinity is undergoing a lighting audit to determine what lights will be covered under the contract that the town, CMP, and Affinity are still rectifying. Also, the Community Action Grant money may go further to see if interior

bay lights at the fire department, transfer station, and public lights could also be replaced with the funds.

b. MCOG Regional Sustainability Planning

i. Midcoast Council of Governments has hired a Sustainability Planner Meg Rasmussen. Kate met with her and planners from neighboring towns to talk about potential regional initiatives.

ii. MCOG is going to look into planning an event for members of Energy/Sustainability/Climate Committees in the region to meet up and share ideas.

iii. We are also exploring the potential to do a regional GOPIF grant project for EV charging infrastructure in Topsham, Brunswick, and Bath.

c. Fall GOPIF grant: Solar workstations & education program

i. Staff had a hard time getting any contractor to give them a quote for the energy audit. Kate tried to pivot to a library project, but the library isn't ready to move forward on that yet. We should still get a quote for purposes to be ready for future grants.

On the topic of energy efficiency in town offices the next fiscal budget Trane was hired to audit the systems of the town office and public safety building to fine-tune these systems for heating and cooling.

d. Possible Library Projects

i. Kate is working with Susan Preece to see if we can take advantage of the Efficiency Maine rebate to get EV chargers at the library. Susan is also going to meet with someone from Revision to get ballpark ideas about solar on the roof of the library. The Topsham library wants to work towards becoming a "green library", triple-bottom-line, etc - there might be some collaborative workshop/adult ed opportunities for Energy

Committee there in the coming months. This would need to go to Select Board and their board for projects.

e. Waste Reduction grant opportunity in 2023

i. Ed Caron from the Solid Waste Facility asked planning staff to look into applying for a grant next year to expand his composting area so he can handle a higher volume.

f. RE-CODE update

i. Code update drafts are available online to comment on - see PDF for links.

Please leave comments!

New Business

3. Appointments to the committee, elections of officers

a. If we were going to give term limits we need to be a formal committee which would need to be passed by an ordinance. Or the select board needs to give us term limits and give us more charges.

b. This past year we did not elect officers. During October's meeting, we will need nominations for chair, vice chair, and secretary.

4. We are at our two-year mark. Let's regroup on our charges. Next meeting is dedicated to brainstorming ideas and timelines and drafting a product for the selectboard to review with us in a workshop. Ideas will be categorized as short, medium, and long term. Members be assigned projects and report back to the group.

5. Opportunities to table at the Trunk or Treat. Pin for next year with more time to create handouts and resources.

Invitation for Public Comment

None

Motion to adjourn Nick, Victor second.