

Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Committee Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2023
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Community Room/GoToMeeting

Board Members Present

- Peter Fromuth David Ertz Scott Sherriff Celine Kuhn
 Stephanie Watson Vacancy Bill Dunn Danielle Hood Megan Hellstedt
 Anna Siegel (SL) David Craig (TC)
 Scott LaFlamme (Staff) Meddy Smith (Staff)

Public in Attendance:

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 14, 2023, MEETING MINUTES

Meddy Smith brought the meeting to order at 6:04 pm and David Ertz called for a motion to approve the June 14, 2023, minutes and accept them as presented. Peter Fromuth seconded the motion to approve, and the motion was carried unanimously. There was an error of date in the June minutes that will be fixed.

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Meddy and Megan reported on the progress of the Climate Action Task Force in developing the Climate Action Plan, including giving notice of the upcoming October 10th public workshop. The group discussed the value of including continued public engagement efforts in the Plan and the opportunity for Town committee alignment for effective implementation. Since the Climate Action Plan will have different groups championing action implementation, there is a need for sustained coordination, reporting, and collaboration between town committees, staff, and stakeholders. The group noted a permanent sustainability coordinator role would be effective for facilitating implementation collaboration.

The group also noted the unique landscape of funding opportunities available and there can be a larger discussion among town leadership about how to leverage this funding through grant writing. Megan noted that funding opportunities will be noted in the implementation table and blueprints, but that YCAT can consider adding a callout on this topic as well.

- *Action item(s)*: Megan and Meddy to keep CEES updated on the planning process. Further discussions on this topic anticipated for all Fall CEES meetings.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING

Meddy reported on the Efficiency Maine (EMT) funding award for EV chargers. As of this meeting date, the Town has only heard from EMT on the successful Town Hall site award. This project includes replacing the existing three level 2 plugs with four networked level 2 plugs. After consulting with Energy Management Consultant, the Town decided to move forward with Autel charging stations which are the most durable and have some added features that other comparable brands do not. Autel was compared to ChargePoint, BreezeEV and Juicebox. The award also includes

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money for a 5-year networking subscription. The total award was \$32,000 (90% of the project cost). I'm working with Nat to have the Town Council authorize the remaining \$7,000.

In addition, the Town has not heard back on any funding for the Log Cabin site, for which an application was submitted. EMT notified the Town that K-12 locations were not eligible, eliminating the High School as a possible location for EV charging through this funding stream.

The group discussed where the existing level 2 charging docks should be relocated to and agreed to work with Scott to identify and relocate these chargers for municipal use.

- *Action item(s)*: Subgroup to reconnect as needed to discuss networking for new chargers and relocation.

EFFICIENCY YARMOUTH

The Sustainability Coordinator updated the Committee on the status of this project and identified next steps, which include reviewing the application. Meddy described the proposed rebate reservation process and the group discussed ways to do outreach, including outreach to specific neighborhoods and through other community channels.

- *Action item(s)*: Meddy, Peter, Celine, and others to meet to discuss next steps to launch the application.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

After discussion, the committee agreed to use the September CEES meeting to discuss draft actions to provide feedback for the Climate Plan. The November meeting is tentatively scheduled to be a joint CEES/YCAT/CPSC meeting to discuss a) alignment of climate action plan with Comp Plan, and b) most effective committee structure to implement Climate Plan.

- *Action item(s)*: Meddy and Megan to send draft actions to the full group electronically in advance of the September meeting for member review and preparation for discussion.

ONGOING PROJECT/POLICY UPDATE(S)

Business Incentive Program. No members or Town staff have further developed the program recently.

- *Action Item(s)*: No action identified.

Sligo Solar Project. David Ertz gave a brief update on the Sligo Road community solar project. Updates include that the terms sheet is back in CMP's hands and that the process to sell the land to the town is moving along collaboratively with all parties. Scott LaFlamme is working to set up a meeting with EDPR to update them. Cluster study is in progress.

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- *Action Item(s)*: David to stay connected with process and provide update to the group at a later meeting.

School EV Charging Rates. Peter reported on the successful effort with CMP that solidifies the potential for significant electricity cost savings after PPA credits are used. These savings would be for the electricity used to charge the schools' electric buses. Some questions were raised such as the school's allocation of the municipal PPA and if there would need to be metering infrastructure installed to calculate the electricity used by the bus charging.

- *Action Item(s)*: Peter to connect with Rudy and or Nat to clarify metering needs and PPA allocation.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

The Committee adjourned upon mutual consent at 7:28 pm