

Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES) and Yarmouth Climate Action Task Force (YCAT)

Committee Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2024
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Community Room/GoToMeeting

YCAT Members

- Chair, Megan Hellstedt
- Abigail Grunewald
- Anna Siegal
- Caroline Norden
- Nancy Martin
- Maya Faulstich
- Ian Voparil
- Mary Gallaudet
- Jen Waterman
- Jeff Bates
- Sally Slovenski
- Matt Gamache
- Karin Orenstein (TC)

CEES Members

- Peter Fromuth
- David Ertz
- Scott Sherriff
- Celine Kuhn
- Stephanie Watson
- Bill Dunn
- Danielle Hood
- Megan Hellstedt
- Anna Siegel (SL)
- Heather Abbott (TC)

Staff

Meddy Smith,
Sustainability Coordinator

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve YCAT minutes of 12.6.23 made by Jen and seconded by Nancy, passing unanimously without changes.

David requested an amendment to the CEES minutes of 12.13.23 to a change in language related to the EDPR application for interconnection.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Meddy reported on the progress of the Climate Action Plan, including showing a section of the designed plan, which is currently in-progress. The Plan will be presented to Town Council in February at the first council meeting of the month (February 1st). Depending on council feedback and remaining adjustments, the Plan could be adopted at the Council's voting meeting on February 15th. YCAT and CEES members are invited to attend either or both meetings and bring stakeholders they talked to throughout the process. It was noted the first meeting is likely more valuable to attend because there may be more public comment opportunity to speak to the councilors.

Discussion on Net Zero

The group reviewed the definition of Net Zero as it currently is drafted in the Plan. Meddy noted that getting general consensus on this definition will be important, as it will be the foundation for implementation assumptions and can further define the Climate Resolution in practice. The group noted that this definition needs to be clear for different readers, and suggestions were made to enhance clarity. The general intention of the definition as proposed is that the Town targets to reduce emissions to net zero emphasize direct emission reductions with any market based or artificial offset as a last resort. This puts more focus on concrete interventions and behavior change.

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Land Acknowledgement

The group reviewed the current language drafted for the land acknowledgement to be included in the beginning of the Plan. Mary reported on outreach she has done to local organizations, including YCARE and Wabanaki REACH, who have provided comments on the language. The current version has been amended with that feedback. Meddy noted that while this acknowledgement will frame the Plan, there is also a connection to the Natural Environment chapter (referencing models of indigenous stewardship), and the final chapter on implementation that emphasizes the importance of diverse voices in planning and projects. The group had no major comments but will have an opportunity for additional feedback offline.

Draft Action Final Review and Discussion

The group reviewed several actions that are considered 'high impact', referring to their potential to reduce emissions. The selected actions presented also may include financial investments made from the town to implement or a presumed need for additional community buy-in. These actions may be included in the presentation to Town Council, for a chance to speak directly on some of the most important actions in the Plan. The group reviewed the actions and provided additional notes for why these actions are being included in the Plan.

The group also discussed the recommendation to Council for the existing CEES group to amend its charter to focus on plan implementation. It was noted that continuity with YCAT membership may be valuable if CEES expands. Both committee group will plan for a final joint meeting in March to discuss implementation.

ADJOURN

The Committee adjourned upon mutual consent at 7:35 pm