

MINUTES

February 22, 2023 7:00 pm - Called to order at 7:00 pm

Location: Wheeler Room, York Library

Members in attendance: Susan Covino, Len Loomans, Rozanna Patane, Wayne Boardman, Harry Mussman, Kiki Tidwell, Casey Giffen

Guests: AJ Barthel

1. Minutes unanimously approved

2. Old Business

- a. Rozanna, Wayne, and Susan attended the February 16th meeting of the Budget Committee to ask for reconsideration of the Environmental Planner position. The position was removed from the budget at their previous meeting. The members reported that many York residents submitted comments and spoke out at the meeting to support the reinstatement of the item. Speakers detailed the necessity of this role in moving the town's Climate Action Plan forward. Some mentioned that the position could end up paying for itself twice over through grant money to the town.

The Budget Committee decided to vote again and approved it unanimously. The planner position was moved to the Town Manager budget and will await final approval in the May vote.

- b. Rozanna and Susan met with Robert Palmer to discuss the language and content of the Climate Action Committee Charter. The motion to adopt the charter was put off until this upcoming meeting on Feb 27th.

Kinley Gregg expressed discontent with the draft, Rozanna will reach out to Palmer for a better idea of her stance. Casey Giffen mentioned that there is room for more communication to ensure everyone has the same and complete information. Such as, meeting with some other members of the Selectboard to discuss their focus and concerns. Also making sure not to leave any relevant parties out of the conversation. Members agreed that providing the Budget Committee additional information regarding the utility

and background of an Environmental Planner could have been helpful in this recent situation.

- c. York Ready for Climate Action hired Marina Mails as a part-time Executive Director in mid-February. There are a total of 4 Energy Coaches that completed their training and are now working on a toolkit they can use with residents. Rozanna confirmed April 15th as the launch date for the program, a press release is still in the works. YRCA also plans on making a report at the end of the year regarding the success and potential scalability of the program.
- d. Harry and AJ are working on getting an initial meeting scheduled to plan the Energy Fair. There is a list of around 8 people interested in planning the fair. The group will be working on a list of potential vendors, members were asked to suggest any organizations that would be a good fit. A member mentioned Victoria Simon with the Recycling Committee had worked with some previous fairs and could be a good resource. A Climate to Thrive hosted a similar event earlier in the year, the group will reach out to ask for any feedback or ideas. The Land Trust, other town committees, and Climate to Thrive, Efficiency Maine, SMPDC, among others, were listed as well.

Members agreed that “Energy Fair” might be too narrow a name for an event that would involve broad sustainability topics. “Climate Action Fair” was mentioned as an option, a name will be decided by the planning group.

There was discussion around the dates. May 20th and some weekend dates later in June were available on the high school's reservation system. Members were unable to find the date of the May election which could fall on the 20th. The group will work to figure out any other potential event conflicts and will have a date picked before the next YESC meeting.

- e. There was some conversation about the Energy Steering's transition into the Climate Action Committee. A member stated that it is too early to make any decisions about how to move forward as there is not much known about the format of the new committee.

Members outlined that it would be good to have as many town districts and committees

represented in the group as possible. The Water and Sewer districts may not be interested in having a full-time member but the CAP calls for infrastructure changes that involve their departments. Wayne mentioned that the Planning Board has working groups and sub-committees. If the Climate Action Committee is the same, those more focused groups could be where the districts work with the volunteers and the Environmental Planner to take action. Those groups could also attract volunteers who might have less time or expertise to dedicate to a full membership.

3. New Business

- a. Kiki Tidwell compiled information on the Tesla Supercharger network for the committee. Biden has pushed for a standardized EV charger, including pushing Tesla to open its charging stations to other brands. Teslas chargers operate at different speeds and with different plugs than other electric vehicles. It is likely that this will include a requirement for a certain amount of materials to be sourced from the United States, similar to many of the IRA conditions.

Kiki reported that there are around 2.5 billion dollars in grants available to place more chargers along the EV corridor. The administration is also potentially looking to create a similar payment system to Tesla, where the charger software can communicate with a vehicle account and initiate the transaction. This would reduce the need for additional apps and payment cards that many have now, several committee members agreed that the current system can be complicated to work with.

- b. Macy Young was not present, no updates. AJ will reach out for a better method of contact.

4. Adjourn

8:42