

MINUTES

March 16, 2023 Called to order at 7:00 pm

Location: via Zoom

Members in attendance: Susan Covino, Len Loomans, Wayne Boardman, Harry Mussman, Kiki Tidwell

1. Minutes Approved

2. Old Business

- a. The Selectboard approved the charter at the February 27th meeting. Len Loomans and Susan Covino later met with Dylan Smith to ask questions about the next steps of the Climate Action Committee. Dylan reported there have been no applications to the new committee and no talk of retiring the ESC. When the committee is expected to start or if it will wait for the new planner is still uncertain.

Dylan confirmed that the Environmental Planner will be part of the administrative budget and is in good shape for the May vote. And that the new town manager will be starting his position on April 10th in the temporary Town Hall.

- b. AJ Barthel was not present, no update.
- c. Rozanna Patane was not present, no update.
- d. Len was in contact with DEP to gather some of York's files regarding the potential solar sites. DEP has been working to digitize their files, so were able to provide some of the information. Len told the committee that he keeps Dylan up to date on the project and information that he gets.

Through the files it was learned that Witchtrot is capped with topsoil and glacial till. It does not have a clay cap or methane vents. There are water wells and Dean Lessard from DPW confirmed that they are monitored regularly. Len will reach out for their testing data.

This information is needed to apply for a license with DEP to get the site developed. The solar array should not disturb the ground or any of the contaminated soil. Once Len has all of the information he can forward it to the developer to see if they want to move forward with the project.

3. New Business

- a. Harry reported that June 24th is the date for the Climate Action Fair. Susan shared that the reservation request for the space had been approved by the school. The reservation is for the commons, multipurpose room, and parking lot of the York High School.

York's Climate Action Fair was described as a way for people to share personal testimony and ask questions of representatives. The plan is to have a variety of vendors who handle heat pumps, electric vehicles, and solar, alongside experienced community members available to talk to residents.

Harry asked members for ideas for who to reach out to. One idea was that there could be a table for the new Environmental Planner or Dylan Smith for them to talk about what actions the town is taking. Kiki asked about involving Dean Lessard and the towns plans for climate mitigation and adaptation. Multiple members agreed that Dean is busy with his routine work and likely has little time to talk to the committee. Harry mentioned that SMPDC does similar work and could have answers.

Wayne brought up a water table display that the water district had at a previous event, Harry agreed to reach out to ask about it. Kiki also had the idea of involving local apprenticeship programs to give those organizations more reach. Members agreed that many of those careers are lacking recruits and could use exposure.

The fair planning committee will meet every 2 weeks to keep making steady progress.

Kiki asked a question about whether or not the ESC should be reporting at Selectboard meetings more regularly. Susan responded that Len and her typically watch each meeting and report any relevant information to the ESC. Meetings are made as needed with individual Selectboard members and the town manager for updates. As there has not been a town manager those meetings have paused but will hopefully resume once the position

is comfortably filled. Members also had concerns that continually requesting space on the Selectboard's agenda could be unfair to other committees.

- b. Harry did some research on a funding opportunity for EV charging. He believes that based on how the money would be split up this grant is not worth pursuing. This would be for a level-2 charger and the money is available on a first-come first-served basis. However, the application is long, the upfront investment of time and money would be high, and the town is would not be inclined to take that work on. Kiki mentioned that there is separate federal funding that could be available in 2024 for York as part of a national push to build an EV charging network. The group agreed it would be important to watch for any opportunities through that program as well.

Members then discussed how pursuing businesses, like the hospital, to install EV chargers might be more successful. Hannaford's was one example of businesses that have chargers, as well as a few hotels in town. It was also agreed that businesses likely would have the capacity to handle an installation but they might not see enough reason to.

Wayne and Kiki briefly talked about having an EV charger or solar at the Village Fire Station. Wayne has done some work with them in the past and they have shown interest before. Wayne will be reaching out to the Fire Chief to see if he would like to look into a project.

4. Adjourn by

9:00