

Meeting Minutes

York Maine Climate Action Committee

Date and Time

April 2, 2025, 6:00 pm

Location

Zoom virtual meeting.

Attendees

Members:

- Cornelius Murphy, Chair
- Roy Sieber, Secretary
- Garrett Bent
- Wayne Boardman
- Kiki Tidwell

York Water District Staff

- Don Neumann, Superintendent

Public

- Susan Covino
- Carol Libby, representing York Ready for Climate Action

Call to Order

Cornelius Murphy called the Climate Action Committee (CAC) to order at 6:03 pm. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the March meeting minutes, as submitted: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

Agenda Items

Discussion with Don Neumann, York Water District Superintendent

Don Neumann provided information on several issues of interest to the CAC.

The Chases Pond dam appears sound and undergoes regular maintenance. The Water District has commissioned an Engineering Study from GEI Engineers in Portland to evaluate conditions at the pond and dam under a 500-year flood scenario. This study will update previous analyses under a 100-year flood scenario. The scope of the study includes a dam stability analysis, projected watershed inflow, and possible downstream inundation under a major storm event. The

study is underway, and a draft report is expected in three to four months. The study will also inform recommended infrastructure improvements at Chase's Pond.

The GEI engineering report will be shared with Town engineering staff to help inform any planned work at the Chase's Pond Bridge.

Under a major storm event that results in downstream inundation, potentially effected residents would be notified under the Water District's emergency action plan and the Town of York "Code Red" community notification system. Don suggested the CAC may want to have more discussion on this topic with the York Emergency Management Director, Nicole Pestana.

Don does not anticipated flooding risk associated with other water district infrastructure. Pump stations are "high and dry".

Extended drought is another risk the water district prepares for. The primary approach to increasing resilience is to use interoperating agreements and share water resources, when needed, between the York Water District, Kittery Water District, and Kennebunk Water District. Further, the Kennebunk Water District can connect to the Saco Water District. The York Water District is also updating their operating terms and conditions to give them more authority to implement water conservation limits if needed.

Update on Solar Developer Presentations to Select Board

Cornelius Murphy provided an update on presentations to the select board on different solar development approaches that might be of interest for the Witchtrot Road site:

- Robbie Raymond of Sunwealth presented on their community solar development approach on March 24. The select board was engaged in the discussion and Mr. Raymond was able to respond to all their questions.
- John Simko with Androscoggin Bank was scheduled to make a presentation on their municipal lease approach at the same March 24 meeting. He was not able to present because of technical difficulties with the virtual meeting feed. He will need to be rescheduled.
- John Dunster of ReVision Energy is scheduled to present at a meeting with the Select Board on April 14.

Climate Action Committee Charter

The CAC discussed and voted on a motion to recommend to the Select Board an update the CAC charter as follows. Modify the first sentence of the paragraph on committee membership to read as "The Committee shall be comprised of 5 voting members and 2 alternate members, appointed by the Selectboard".

The motion was approved by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Wayne Boardman will work with Cornelius to present this recommendation to the Select Board.

Budget Committee Presentation

Cornelius is in contact with the budget committee and is tentatively scheduled to meet with them on April 29.

School Department Facilities

Cornelius invited Kirk Sole, the new school department facilities manager, to a future CAC meeting to engage on how the CAC can help support efforts to make York Schools more energy efficient. The school department is currently undertaking an internal facilities planning review. The CAC will reconnect with the school department after their plans become clearer.

Coordinating with the York Community Center Building Committee

Roy Sieber contacted the Community Center Building Committee, which is up and running. He will work on setting up a communication channel with that committee.

York Electric Energy Billing

Taylor Maquire provided an updated set of Constellation Energy bills for further analysis. Roy will work with Taylor to get access to updated CMP bills at Town Hall.

The CAC agreed that it would be good to have our analysis of electrical energy costs and potential opportunities complete in time for Cornelius Murphy's discussion with the budget committee at the end of April.

Future CAC emphasis

Cornelius encouraged the CAC members to begin thinking about the topics the committee should focus on, beyond the solar power opportunities that have been our primary focus for the past several months.

Public Comments

Carol Libby reported that York Ready for Climate Action (YRCA) is making progress on hiring a new Executive Director. Carol recently attended the Maine Sustainability and Water Conference, which was very informative. She will distribute a conference summary to the CAC.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2025, at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Prepared by:

Roy Sieber, Secretary