

## MINUTES

May 18, 2023, called to order at 7:00 pm

Location: Community Room

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

Guests: AJ Barthel, Todd Lamoreaux

1. Minutes amended and approved as amended.

### 2. Old Business

- a. Susan Covino reported that the YESC's budget has \$3,266 remaining for this fiscal year. The year ends on June 30th and any remaining money after that date will be returned to the town's budget.

This year the budget was increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Typical budget expenditures include subscriptions to ICLEI, E2Tech, USDN, and DropBox. Recently, Len Loomans moved the DropBox files into a free Google Drive. This eliminates the need for a DropBox account and the committee will save money by not renewing it. Len will continue to manage the Google account and files.

There was a clerical issue involving the payment of Erin Ferrell's consulting fee. As part of an agreement with the former town manager, Steve Burns, the payment was supposed to be made from a supplemental budget in the town. Instead, the payment was charged to the Energy Steering budget. Susan will work to get the \$750 charge corrected. \$1,600 was set aside to assist with AJ Barthel's commute for the year. With that and other commitments accounted for, there is an estimated \$1,970 still available. Time at the end of the meeting will be used to decide what to do with the remaining funds.

A question was raised about what will happen at the close of the year since the new committee should be formed. Susan indicated she will stay with the YESC if it continues into the following year. Len shared that he does not plan to return to YESC, however, he is interested in being involved with the energy aspect of the Climate Action Committee.

It was agreed that more information about the structure and function of the new committee would be helpful in making a decision to apply. Members also noted that the

new group is not shown as available on the town website. Kiki Tidwell explained that she was able to apply through the normal application process. Wayne Boardman intends to reach out to get the listings updated so there is a public advertisement.

- b.** AJ Barthel reported that they have finished the Greenhouse Gas Inventory training and received the certification from the course. Progress on the inventory has been going well but there is still some missing data. Most of the data needed for the municipal inventory has been collected. The community inventory is waiting for additional data requests. Town departments have shared their energy and fuel use data for the municipal inventory. AJ reported that CMP has been helpful in compiling reports for local data use as well. CMP provided data on industrial, commercial, and residential electricity use within York.

The Tax Assessors records will be needed to estimate how much heating oil is used in town. The methodology for data collection and sourcing was outlined in the Climate Action Plan and AJ will follow their methods closely. York's inventory needs to be updated every few years and the Global Covenant of Mayors is a yearly report. GCoM's report opened in mid-April and the first submissions are due in late July. AJ stated that the report is similar to last year so much of the previous version carried over.

- c.** Susan shared the budget and invoice that was provided for the \$500 expense for the Climate Action Fair. Casey explained that there is a joint account where the money from YESC, the Recycling Committee, and YRCA is pooled. That money goes towards printing expenses, signage, and table rentals.

Kiki had questions regarding the formation and logistics of the fair, as some discussions of it took place before her appointment to the committee. Susan explained that Climate Action Fair came from someone recommending there be an Energy Fair earlier in the year. The Energy Fair was based on a previous version of the event in York several years before and was well attended.

There is a planning group that meets every other week to go over the details of the event. The primary goals are community outreach and education. Vendors from solar and heat pumps, and local organizations have been invited to attend and share information with residents. Efficiency Maine was contacted but they are unable to come, they did offer to

supply some of their tabling materials to give out during the event. An electric vehicle ride and drive is planned as well.

Volunteers will be needed to help with set up and break down, more details to come.

- d.** York Ready for Climate Action is scheduled on the Selectboard's agenda for June 12th. YRCA is going to seek the approval of the Selectboard to submit a grant application to the Community Resilience Partnership. York recently joined the CRP which allows it to apply for a \$50,000 grant. Since the town was not planning on submitting an application for this round, YRCA will be pursuing it. Changes were made to the original proposal several months before. Many of those changes addressed the questions that committee members and the Selectboard raised.

Rozanna asked the Energy Steering Committee for a letter of support for their application to the Community Resilience Partnership. There were questions about YRCA's current projects and the history of the program. Rozanna explained that the coaches started to make visits to residents already. This program is the beginning of a pilot so there has not been much to report yet other than that residents are interested.

Susan prepared a draft letter of support, which was distributed to the committee. Small changes were made to the document and 5 members elected to add their names in support and 1 abstained.

- e.** Len Loomans reported that the Witchtrot solar project is on hold. There have been many delays in solar projects around the state and it does not seem like this project will be fully pursued at the moment. Members discussed another solar project that had been approved in York several years ago that was never started. The reason for the pause is unknown in that case, Kiki expressed interest in reaching out to see where it stands.
- f.** The Town Hall Building Committee learned that the Efficiency Maine incentive approved for the high efficiency (heat pump) HVAC equipment being installed is roughly \$40k, rather than the \$100k originally anticipated. The lesser amount is mainly due to the existing building renovation being considered new construction by EM, which reduces the available incentives.

### **3. New Business**

- a.** Members agreed that the budget should be spent before the year is done. Some ideas were to use it as additional funds for the Climate Action Fair, to dedicate it to a potential community fund to support low-income residents or to put it towards another project in town.

The conversation focused on supporting the upcoming event. Since the Climate Action Fair does not need more spending budget a member proposed holding a raffle instead. There cannot be money collected at the event so it would be free to enter and the committee would purchase the prizes. Electric lawn equipment was mentioned, and members shared their positive experiences with the brand EGO. Several people agreed that raffling an electric mower or string trimmer would be a good use of the budget.

Another meeting will be held next week on May 24th at 7:00 pm to make a final decision on the budget.

### **4. Adjourned at**

**9:00**