

## **MINUTES**

**May 24, 2023, called to order at 7:00 pm**

Location: Wheeler Room

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

Guests: AJ Barthel

**1. The previous meeting minutes are not ready, to be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.**

**2. Old Business**

- a. Susan Covino followed up with Wendy Anderson at Town Hall on the budget concerns. Currently, Wendy is out of the office so the issue cannot be addressed yet but it should be handled shortly.

The goal of the meeting today was to decide what to spend the remaining Energy Steering budget on before the end of the fiscal year. There is \$1,970 available, with a potential \$750 in addition if the account is able to be corrected.

Members re-established that a free-to-enter raffle will be held at the event and electric string trimmers and an electric lawnmower could be the prize. Kiki Tidwell and Len Loomans informed the group that EGO also offers electric leaf blowers as well but were unsure of the cost. AJ Barthel checked the cost of the item online, ACE Hardware had a sale for a leaf blower and string trimmer set for \$230.

Rozanna Patane mentioned that if Eldredge sells the equipment then the committee might be able to coordinate the raffle with them. Another member brought up that Eldredge might be willing to offer a discount for the purchase. Eldredge plans on attending the fair so the planning committee has spoken with them before and they have an interest.

Members agreed that the committee should reach out to Eldredge to discuss the potential details. AJ mentioned that Eldredge would likely have their own EGO representative that they work with who might be willing to come down themselves.

It was clarified that the Energy Steering Committee would be the group responsible for

making this arrangement. Even though it is Climate Action Fair business it is the Energy Steering Committee's budget. A question followed about the use of certificates. The concern was that if the certificate is for a set amount of money then there is the risk that it would not match the sale price and leave money unspent. One solution was that the certificates could go to an EGO product, rather than a specific piece.

The group discussed including a lawn mower as that could be a good draw for residents and a good way to advertise. Kiki brought up that the committee has the ability to negotiate prices and that maybe Eldredge would be open to offering an incentive to York residents interested in purchasing electric equipment.

The next idea considered was paying for an energy audit as a raffle prize. Members spoke about the Efficiency Maine rebates and what services their program covers. It was decided that there could still be a benefit to paying for an audit in addition to the electric equipment. If the winner were to just get the energy audit then the money would go towards paying for that. If the winner got the audit and weatherization work done, it would apply to the weatherization since Efficiency Maine should cover the audit itself. Rozanna offered to figure out how to get the audit certificate to work if the committee agrees to pursue it.

Kiki moved to propose that the remaining budget be spent on 8 string trimmers/leaf blowers and the additional \$750 be spent on a mower if it is available. Also to have someone reach out to Eldredge to discuss incentivized pricing. This motion was seconded by Harry.

Discussion followed about who would be hosting the raffle and how people would enter. Rozanna mentioned a survey people could fill out and express interest. Members agreed that it should be clear that the fair is hosting this raffle and not Eldredge or EGO themselves. There was a conversation regarding adding an energy audit to the proposal which was turned down. Further questions followed about the logistics of including firm numbers. Rozanna and Casey suggested more flexible language, as the details will not be fully known until later. This decision will require the availability and cooperation of Eldredge which is not yet assured.

Kiki amended her proposal to allocate the Energy Steering Committees' budget towards the purchase of an assortment of electric leaf blowers and string trimmers, in an amount not to exceed \$1,970. Seconded by Harry.

Members voted 2 for, 5 against. The motion fails.

Rozanna moved to have the Energy Steering Committee support the Climate Action Fair by allocating \$1,900 of the budget to two categories: one for an assortment of electric string trimmers and leaf blowers, the second for an energy audit. Both of which would be pending making the arrangements. The motion was seconded by Len.

A member asked for clarification on who the final check would be going to. It was agreed that one check would go to Eldredge for the equipment and the other to the energy audit company. The purchase needs to be made before the end of the fiscal year. Rozanna will work on organizing the energy audit. Casey and Len will organize the raffle with Eldredge.

Members voted 6 for, and 1 abstained. The motion passes.

**3. Adjourned at**

**8:00 pm**