

Meeting Minutes

York Maine Climate Action Committee

Date and Time

June 4, 2025, 6:00 pm

Location

Wheeler Room, York Public Library

Attendees

Members:

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

Public

- Carol Libby, representing York Ready for Climate Action

Call to Order

Cornelius Murphy called the Climate Action Committee (CAC) to order at 6:06 pm. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

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

Agenda Items

Solar Developer Partner Meetings with Selectboard

John Dunster of Revision Energy made his presentation to the Selectboard. The Selectboard appeared receptive to community solar development, although Mr. Dunster indicated that development of the Witchtrot site did not “pencil out” from Revision Energy’s perspective, given the size of the system, site constraints, and need for three phase power.

Further subsequent discussion between Mr. Dunster and the CAC Chair, Cornelius Murphy, suggested that a development project at the Witchtrot site may be viable with additional analysis.

Other potential providers, such as Sunwealth, offered a more positive initial assessment.

Cornelius will continue to work with John Simko with Androscoggin Bank to extend an invitation to present to the Selectboard, as well as an invitation to the Town Manager and Selectboard “champion” of a solar development project in Falmouth, Maine, so that they may share their experiences with successful projects.

Cornelius will draft a letter to prospective community solar developers of the Witchtrot site soliciting feedback on what information would need to be included in a request for proposal. He will circulate the draft letter to the CAC for comment.

Fire Station Solar Project

The CAC discussed the draft RFP prepared by town staff for the village fire station solar project. It is not clear why the RFP appears to be structured as a lease arrangement. Cornelius will meet with Taylor Macquire and Peter Joseph to obtain more background information on the approach.

Budget Committee Feedback

Cornelius met with the Budget Committee on April 29 to get their perspective on how the CAC could be more effective and continue to make progress on implementing the Climate Action Plan. The ideas generated from that discussion focused on leadership and capacity building:

- 1) A CAC representative could ask to sit on the annual Capital Projects Planning Committee.
- 2) Make a presentation to the Selectboard that the current advisory structure of the CAC is not effective in driving progress.
- 3) Work on formalizing a more structured consultative role for the CAC on town development projects.
- 4) Develop a list of vendors that provide energy-efficiency services that town departments could use.

After discussion, the CAC decided that items 1) and 3) were good initial steps to take. Cornelius will meet with Taylor Maguire and Peter Joseph to get their input regarding item 3.

Tracking Electrical Energy Use

Roy Sieber briefly reviewed his efforts to assemble and track town electrical energy purchases and use. The CAC agreed this is an important metric to track on an ongoing basis.

Garrett Bent made a motion seconded by Roy Sieber:

“The Climate Action Committee recommends that Town Staff take over monthly review of Town electrical energy use and update the CAC periodically on findings and recommendations.”

The motion was passed by a vote of 5 in favor and 0 opposed.

New Selectboard member

Kiki Tidwell suggested that the CAC invite new Selectboard member Mary-Anne Szeniaewski to an upcoming meeting to introduce her to the work of the committee.

Public Comments

Carol Libby reported that York Ready for Climate Action (YRCA) has hired a new Executive Director, Sarah Palmer.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Wheeler Room, York Public Library

Prepared by:

Roy Sieber, Secretary