

Meeting Minutes

York Maine Climate Action Committee

Date and Time

October 1, 2025, 6:00 pm

Location

York Library, Wheeler Room

Attendees

Members:

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

Town Staff

- Taylor Maguire, Environmental Planner

Public

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

Call to Order

Cornelius Murphy called the Climate Action Committee (CAC) to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The committee unanimously approved the September meeting minutes, with edits.

The August meeting minutes are still being prepared.

Agenda Items

Witchtrot Solar RFI/RFQ

The CAC reviewed and discussed the draft Request for Information and Request for Qualifications (RFI/RFQ) Regarding Witchtrot Landfill Solar Photovoltaic Project. Through discussion, the CAC

clarified and edited Section II to indicate the desired timing of the project is within one year of any bid award.

Roy Sieber made a motion to forward the revised draft RFI/RFQ to the Selectboard for their consideration, seconded by Cornelius Murphy. The motion passed, 4 in favor, none opposed.

Taylor Maguire will prepare a related request for action to the Selectboard.

Wildfire risk and management

Cornelius Murphy reported a brief discussion with the York Emergency Management Director, Nicole Pestana, regarding wildfire risk. She indicated the current town emergency plan focuses more on response rather than prevention. Ms. Pestana is open to coming to a future CAC meeting for a more in-depth discussion.

Taylor Maquire indicated that the Town of Kittery is also interested in wildfire planning and prevention. This could open the possibility of working jointly with them to pursue a Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) Community Action Grant in this area.

The CAC identified the need to gather more information from other entities with an interest in wildfire management:

- Taylor will follow up with Town of Kittery representatives to get more information on their goals and approach.
- Roy will research any existing plans at county and state-level agencies (e.g. Forest Service, Fire Marshall).

GOPIF Community Action Grants

Taylor reported that York has completed work on its current GOPIF Community Action Grant (sewer upgrades) and is eligible to apply for a new grant. Grants are for up to \$75,000 for a single municipal applicant, or up to \$175,000 if York partnered with another jurisdiction.

Taylor requested that CAC members begin considering potential grant ideas, including wildfire mitigation and adaptation discussed above. She will reach out to other Town departments and committees to see if they have potential grant ideas they would like to pursue.

Hannaford Road Police Station

Cornelius is still waiting for information from Maine Solar Solutions regarding a potential solar and battery peak load shaving project at the Police Station. Maine Solar Solutions expressed some initial concern about the battery component potentially being space intensive and prohibitively expensive.

CAC members noted that Kiki Tidwell had shared via email some information from the contractor doing the HVAC upgrades at the police station. This contractor also may be able to provide information on a potential peak load shaving solution.

Other Town Buildings

Cornelius has a meeting scheduled with the Schools Superintendent the week of October 6 and he plans to discuss the school department's facility plan and options for energy efficiency.

Roy reported that the Community Center Building Committee is considering energy efficiency in their planning. They are scheduled to present their proposal to the Capital Planning Committee on October 30.

The CAC discussed information forwarded by Kiki regarding an offer from Sarah Swartz of Energy Efficient Investments, Inc. to conduct energy assessments at town facilities free of charge. Taylor will follow up with the Town Manager, Peter Joseph, to consider this offer.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Prepared by:

Roy Sieber, Secretary