

Meeting Minutes

York Maine Climate Action Committee

Date and Time

November 5, 2025, 6:00 pm

Location

Via Zoom

Attendees

Members:

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

Town Staff

- Taylor Maguire, Environmental Planner
- Peter Murray, Director, Parks and Recreation

Public

- Susan Covino
- Carol Libby, representing York Ready for Climate Action (YRCA)
- Barb Poulin

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

The committee unanimously approved the October meeting minutes.

Review of the August meeting minutes was deferred to a future meeting.

Agenda Items

Wildfire Prevention

Taylor Maguire reported that Kittery is interested in partnering with York on a Community Action Grant related to wildfire resilience.

Taylor also discussed wildfire management with the York Fire Chief. His interest is primarily related to wildfire response through early detection, potentially using technology such as drones or cameras.

Taylor contacted the York Water District regarding wildfire management. They do not have a fire management plan; the water district primarily relies on fire response.

Roy Sieber has not yet had a chance to research existing plans at county and state-level agencies (e.g. Forest Service, Fire Marshall); he will follow up.

Community Action Grants

The CAC discussed other potential ideas that would be candidates for a Community Action Grant application:

- Taylor discussed potential grants with the Executive Director of YRCA. No specific ideas have yet been developed.
- Cornelius Murphy discussed a potential project in partnership with Historic New England at the Sayward Wheeler House to implement a marsh resiliency project at their site. The project could be a living shoreline demonstration on the York River. Discussion centered on whether there is sufficient marsh area at that location to warrant a project. CAC members noted that the area is well travelled and visible to the public on the Fisherman's Walk.

The CAC will continue to explore potential community action grant ideas.

Community Center Building Solar Power Potential

Peter Murray briefed the CAC on the goals of the Community Center Building Community to develop an energy efficient project and incorporate solar power if possible. Peter asked for support and recommendations from the CAC to help evaluate possible solar power approaches, including what the costs and benefits would be.

Roy Sieber indicated he had begun to review some of the technical information provided by the architect, and it seems like a cost-effective solar power approach is feasible. The CAC agreed to more fully evaluate solar power potential and prepare a draft recommendation. Roy will prepare an initial draft for consideration by the full CAC. Peter indicated that it would be most helpful to have CAC input by mid-January 2026.

Solar power at the Community Center could be a candidate for a Community Action Grant (up to \$75,000)

Hannaford Road Police Station

Maine Solar Solutions recommended waiting until there is some electricity consumption data available once the HVAC renovation is complete before evaluating solar power potential.

Gerry Runte provided the name of a consultant that can help evaluate a battery peak load shaving approach. However, we need to obtain 15-minute interval electricity consumption data to enable this evaluation. Taylor and Cornelius are working to obtain data from CMP.

School Department

Cornelius met with Timothy Doak, York Schools Superintendent, to discuss possible ways for the CAC to collaborate with the schools department. The department could use help with two potential projects:

- Upgrading the York High School Kitchen where much of the kitchen equipment is 50 years old.
- Retrofitting the middle school to maintain maximum comfortable temperatures in the shoulder seasons (potential for duct work or heat pumps).

Leadership and Capacity

Wayne Boardman participated in the recent Capital Planning Committee meetings focused on the FY 2027-2031 capital budget. Several items presented at those meetings are relevant to the Climate Action Plan:

- The Department of Public Works (DPW) plans to pave and widen sections of Mountain Road and Nubble Road, making those sections safer for bikers and pedestrians.
- DPW plans to purchase a sidewalk snow removal machine to improve sidewalk pedestrian safety in winter.
- Wayne advocated for electric vehicles options for upcoming planned vehicle purchases by the Parks and Recreation Department and Code Enforcement Department.
- Wayne recommended the schools department consider heat pumps when trying to achieve maximum comfortable temperatures at the High School.

Village Fire Station Solar

Bids have been received and need to be evaluated by town staff.

Public Comments

Carol Libby indicated YRCA is looking for a Town partner to jointly sponsor a Climate Action Fair at the high school on May 2, 2026. CAC members discussed the positive, awareness raising opportunities associated with the fair.

Cornelius Murphy made a motion for “The York Climate Action Committee to cosponsor with YRCA the Climate Action Fair at the York High School in May 2026”. Wayne Boardman seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

There were no other public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Prepared by:

Roy Sieber, Secretary