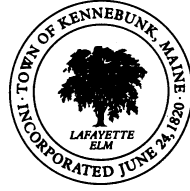


Town of Kennebunk, Maine



Minutes Climate Change Task Force

June 20, 2023 - 9:00 AM
Room 300 – Town Hall

Members Present: Maggie Bartenhagen, Betsy Smith, Yvette Webster, Alison Malmquist, Bryan Laverriere, Chris Osterrieder, Karen Winton, Mark Kerr,

Members Absent: Lily Martin, Chris Pasciuto, Lisa Pratt, Josh Tabor, Chris Pasciuto, Chris MacClinchy

Others Present: Tom Berry, Ed Anderson, Heather Balser, Carol Morris

The meeting was called to order at 10:10.

Carol gave a detailed report on the 472 questionnaire responses received so far – 68 paper and 404 online. She noted that there were 85 volunteers for the proposed sounding boards. The time table for setting those up is late July.

Maggie reported on a recent meeting of the Kennebunkport Task Force and what she learned from their sounding board results.

Carol reported that in July, a Climate Initiative federal grant to Kennebunk and Kennebunkport will bring in young people to facilitate discussions about climate change's potential effects on the Dock Square/Lower Village area, and what the Towns' response should be.

Carol also noted that a University of Maine engineering group prepared an extensive report on flood impacts to the Port and Lower Village with possible adaptation/mitigation strategies. Chris Osterrieder will post the report on the Task Force Google Drive.

Next steps are 1) to contact sounding board candidates to get background information that will contribute to good diversity in terms of age, income, geography, political bias, etc. The Port had two groups of ten for 90-minute discussions 5:30-7:00. Pizza was served. 2) Identify and reach out to stakeholder groups, i.e., hoteliers, teachers, churches, commercial fishermen, etc. – to report our activities to them, ask for their suggestions and opinions and to “enlist” them in the outreach process.

Karen Winton asked how we ensure meaningful representation for the most vulnerable but perhaps least communicative residents. She will work on a strategy to address this.

Maggie suggested a possible “art outreach” project similar to one that Biddeford did.

Chris questioned the pace of the Task Force and targets for adaptation/mitigation strategies and cost implications – the process, the timing, the priorities – pointing out that cost would be a limiting factor to any actions.

Wrap-up and “to dos”: 1) Maggie, Betsy and Kennebunkport representative to meet with Laura Dolce at the Chamber for her ideas on communicating to businesses, 2) Alison to contact Rotary, 3) Chris to share U of Maine engineering study, 4) Karen to develop strategy for targeted outreach to vulnerable communities, 5) Betsy to gather final paper forms and input to Survey Monkey.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.