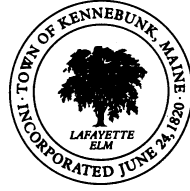


Town of Kennebunk, Maine



Minutes Climate Change Task Force

July 5, 2023 - 9:00 AM
Room 300 – Town Hall

Members Present: Maggie Bartenhagen, Betsy Smith, Yvette Webster, Alison Malmquist, Chris Osterrieder, Karen Winton, Chris MacClinchy, Lisa Pratt, Josh Tabor

Members Absent: Lily Martin, Chris Pasciuto, Mark Kerr, Bryan Laverriere

Others Present: Tom Berry, Carol Morris

Maggie suggested a presentation to the Select Board to heighten the awareness of Town Government to the activities of the Climate Action Task Force. Although there is as yet no concrete plan of action for the Town, it is important to keep the Board and Department heads aware of the Climate Change challenge and potential future budget impacts of adaptation/mitigation strategies. Alison, Yvette and Josh agreed to make such a presentation.

Carol had distributed a document listing all of the comments made in the “what to consider” section of the Climate Change questionnaire. She will reorganize those comments into four or more “piles” with a similar focus to help us better distill the results.

There was a discussion about how to proceed with the “sounding board” process. Carol will draft a letter to those who volunteered asking a few questions to learn more about the volunteers’ orientation – in order to get a good cross section of opinions. Once we get the responses to that letter, we will set dates and times. Targeting early August for the discussions, possibly at the Library. The Port held the meetings from 5:30-7:00 and provided pizza.

Alison suggested getting Cameron Wake as a speaker. He is on the faculty at UNH and lives in Kittery. He’s very effective at getting people involved.

Carol asked for our response to the one-page customizable flyer that has been prepared by SMPDC. The sense of the group was that it would be useful for engaging specific interest groups – businesses, faith-based groups, visitors, residents, etc.

Lisa suggested sending the summary of survey results to those who had asked to be kept informed and who had provided their emails.

Maggie reported on an outreach effort by the youth-led Climate Initiative based in Kennebunkport to hold multiple community conversations focused on flooding issues in Dock Square and Lower Village. Task Force members had several questions about the focus of these conversations, whether businesses in Lower Village were the primary stakeholders that these conversations were hoping to attract, and how many Task Force members might be needed to attend these sessions. Maggie will check further with the organizers of the conversations to get more information. *NB Chris O has uploaded to the Task Force Google drive a two part presentation by U of Maine engineering students describing three different possible adaptations to prevent flooding of Dock Square.*

Josh suggested we organize a similarly focused series of discussions about some of the topics suggested by the questionnaire – in and outs of solar power, electric car ownership, flood insurance, the power grid, etc. This was discussed as a possible winter speaker series....

Chris O reminds the Task Force to focus on the components of the Climate Action Plan beyond pure outreach and awareness, i.e., goals, policies, strategies.

Karen asks what the objective of the sounding boards is, i.e., to solve problems or to communicate concerns. Carol responded that this group would help the Task Force to understand how the community would react to different strategies – and why – and also help to spread the word on the plan and the planning process.

It was suggested that we review the greenhouse gas inventory and climate vulnerability assessment and come to the next meeting with goals.

Maggie mentioned that the Kennebunkport Rotary has scheduled August 1 for a presentation by the Port's Task Force and asked Alison to check if the Kennebunk Rotary would also like to attend that session. Alison agreed to check.

Karen again expressed concern about being sensitive to the needs of the most vulnerable population, who may not be the most communicative. She will be putting together a brief action plan/schedule as to how to best reach this population.

Lisa suggested the Task Force have a table at Harvest Fest.

There was a discussion about keeping a log of anecdotal CC impacts to Kennebunk as concrete justification for any policy recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00