

Town of Kennebunk, Maine

EESC meeting

Minutes of July 27, 2023

July's meeting of the Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Committee (EESC) was convened at 5:30pm by Chair A. Dater; Members attending were: A. Dater, M. Bartenhagen, L. Miller-Cleary, D. Dow, W. Berry, S. Negley (via phone), and SB liaison L. Pratt.

Agenda Item 2:

Meeting minutes of June 15, 2023 were unanimously accepted as presented.

Agenda Item 3 – Climate Change Initiatives Program:

- M. Bartenhagen shared her meeting with the Chamber of Commerce for climate outreach to businesses in K'port, Lower Village, and the rest of the Kennebunks. She shared her experiences with resistance and receptivity of the business community, and that we are attempting to coordinate with K'port. On July 26 she attended a community conversation in Kennebunkport around climate concerns as two businesses are closed in the 'Port as their pilings are undermined. Economic concerns around vulnerability were shared. An interest in reaching out to RSU21 for collaboration was discussed. Grant applications were also discussed for hardscaping/strategies for Dock Square as it is the #1 risk in Southern Maine.
- A community sounding board at the Brick Museum on the 17th and 24th of August was discussed: a listening session to see how interested people are in continuing to be a part of a sounding board, and have the task force run approaches by them as representatives of the community. Also, ongoing discussions were continued about how to let the community know what is going on- various parts of the community interested in 'what we are doing, why, and how it will affect the town.' An approach will be advertised for the public, for a September 26 date as of the meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Composting Task Force:

- Decision on sunseting the composting committee as the committee itself was time-limited, and the EESC voted in June's meeting to take on the composting committee responsibilities. The mission statement is written – and essentially the same mission statement as EESC – but is not yet online. There are four (4) slots available on the current committee and there are two (2) people interested in joining the committee. We will have Kathy invite the two interested people to September's EESC meeting. In the fall, we will push for filling the slots of all committees, as EESC itself has 3 open slots currently and 1 youth member slot available. L. Pratt to send the EESC mission statement with composting included to EESC members.
- The Climate action plan task force met, and are putting out a 'small steps' sheet which involves composting. Information is given therein on what can and cannot be composted. A Select board update was shared, where we are in discussions with the CPRC (transfer station management) who have proposed changing their hours to be closed on 2 Saturdays per month. Will be addressed August 1.
- As we are preparing budgets early, if there is to be budget associated with composting, we should prepare it as soon as possible. The budget committee under Heather will be engaged on specific composting activities. L. Miller-Cleary to talk to Mark King and work towards a grant, perhaps covering a sustainability director and composting.
- Agenda item 5 – LED Streetlight Conversion Program
- RealTerm – an analysis has supposedly been completed, yet the committee/select board has not yet seen it. RealTerm has put this on pause until a new GM is hired at KLPD, though there is

disagreement on whether or not this should be a blocker to releasing the analysis. KLPD is putting up new lights as they need to be replaced.

- A Motion – ‘should the (shielding research) information be sent out to Town Staff, Select Board, KLPD Trustees’ Failed to Move forward, 1-4. Discussion that we cannot do much in terms of action until GM is hired, and sending out information when no one is available to implement risks the information being filed away. We should discover the status and result from RealTerm analysis before taking a decision. Inviting Chris to the next meeting and/or I. Pratt sharing what she learned by reaching out to RealTerm can be used to inform EESC. LD1845 is dead/shelved.

Agenda item 6 – EESC Officers for 2023/2024:

- Keep Chair, Vice Chair, Rotating secretary. Motion in favor of candidates (Dater: Chair; Dow: Vice Chair) unanimously passed.

Agenda item 7 – New Business:

- Under the heading of offsetting climate change, solar was discussed as something the town could be doing more of. Joe’s presentation from Wells in June showed it’s possible to get to clean energy, although there were contracting issues and penalties that came up – economically it could have been better. A discussion occurred as to whether we could do the same here, with investments in solar arrays, or installations of rooftop solar.

Agenda item 8:

- Tabled until Thursday September 21 @ 5:30. However, the website says 6:30 – we should inform the public of the discrepancy
- A motion to make the standard meeting time 5:30pm the 3rd Thursday of every month was passed unanimously, but is pending the Town Clerk saying “no.”

Meeting Adjourned