

Town of Kennebunk, Maine
Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Committee
Minutes of October 19, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chair A. Dater

Members Present: A. Dater, M. Bartenhagen, W. Berry

Members Absent: L. Miller-Cleary, D. Dow, S. Negley, SB liaison Lisa Pratt

Guest: B. Laverriere

B. Laverriere met with L. Miller-Cleary to discuss Town efforts to support composting. B. Laverriere shared that the Casella contract will soon expire (June, 2025) and there is no viable alternative in our area to Casella for trash/recycling pickup at the present time. Casella is not investing in options for composting as they are concerned with investing in their method of automated collection with truck upgrades, etc. He noted that Vermont may soon be tightening requirements for collecting compostable materials and Casella may need to develop ways to do this in order to meet those requirements.

Agricycle was discussed in this context, and they do take compost out of the waste stream, but there is currently no option for 'black gold' compost for public residential use. Currently, there is a charge for \$1.00 for each 5 gallon bucket through Agricycle.

Laverriere expressed his willingness to discuss other ideas to address the composting issue with members of the EESC composting group going forward.

M. Bartenhagen updated the Committee on the progress of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Task Force (TF). It was noted that the TF is approximately 2/3 of the way through the 60+ strategies offered for consideration by Southern Maine Planning and Development, the lead partner in the CAP process. The goal is to evaluate and reduce the number of strategies that will ultimately be a part of the recommendations for Kennebunk by the TF to the Select Board, by applying certain criteria developed by the Task Force. There have also been continuing public outreach efforts, such as a recent presentation to the West Kennebunk Village Committee and to various affordable housing communities to hear their concerns and suggestions to inform the development of the CAP. Outreach to local business owners is ongoing, with a breakfast meeting for business owners on November 16 to further discuss their concerns.

The need to update Kennebunk's greenhouse gas emissions inventory (GGEI) was also discussed. The current GGEI was completed in 2018. Bartenhagen shared that Pratt and the Town Manager have been in discussion regarding this need and Pratt has taken the first step by submitting a proposal for this project to the University of New Hampshire Fellowship Program for consideration.

Dater reported that there is currently no new information regarding the Street Light conversion project. W. Berry expressed interest in seeing whatever report the Consultant to this project (Real Term) has completed on behalf of the Committee. Dater agreed to check into this further and report back to the Committee.

The Committee members present discussed the budget for the EESC for the coming year. The following motion was made by A. Dater and seconded by M. Bartenhagen. It passed unanimously by the members present.

The Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Committee (EESC) requests funding to hire a UNH Fellow for the Summer of 2024 to update the Town's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. The Committee supports this proposal in order to supply vital current data to inform Climate Action Plan strategies. The amount requested is: \$9,500.

The EESC in addition requests the sum of \$6500 to purchase up to 100 composting bins for the coming year.

The sum of \$1,000 is requested to support educational outreach to the community (such as informational forums on solar, heat pumps, other climate change-related issues, composting/organic pest control, etc.).

The total budget request is: \$17,000

Dater moved to approve the minutes of July 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Bartenhagen and approved by all members present.

The next meeting of the Committee will be November 16, 2023 @ 5:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.