

TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH - MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: Energy Committee

Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024

Location: Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall

Attendance

In Attendance:

- David Bagdasarian
- Sam Milton
- Dave Kane
- Ian Sample
- Rosie Blenkhorn
- Niko Dietsch

Absent:

- Vince Faherty
- Richard Parker

Public Contributions:

None

Summary of Discussions

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from July sessions and earlier were referenced but not formally reviewed. It was agreed they would be brought forward to the next meeting for approval.

2. Agenda Items

- A new agenda item, Community Engagement, was added as a recurring item after the Climate Action Planning update.
- No additional items were proposed at this time.

3. Climate Action Planning Update

November Workshop:

- The primary focus is to present high-level strategy language and engage public feedback through posters, surveys, and open discussions.
- A short presentation will precede interactive conversations at the event.
- Light refreshments will be provided to encourage attendance.

Community Survey:

- To date, 72 responses have been collected.
- The survey will relaunch with added promotion to maximize participation before the November workshop.

Plan Development:

- Feedback from the committee, town staff, and the public will be incorporated into the final Climate Action Plan.
- Strategy prioritization will be guided by survey results and workshop data.

4. Consultant Contract Discussion

- The consultant's contract ends this month, with a \$40,000 extension request to complete work through June 2025.
- Concerns were raised about the cost and the impact of delays in plan progress due to town approval processes.
- David will draft a memo to present to the town council and manager, explaining the necessity of the extension and seeking approval.

5. Community Engagement Initiatives

EV Day Recap:

- Positive turnout despite limited promotion.
- Suggestions for next year include earlier promotion and tying the event to existing town festivities.

Harvest Fest:

- Niko will confirm plans for a table at Harvest Fest and prepare necessary materials.
- Ideas for a committee banner and tabling kit were proposed for future events.

Other Ideas:

- Exploring bulk purchasing options for oil or heat pumps to provide community savings.

- Publishing monthly articles in the Cape Courier to educate residents on energy efficiency and sustainability.

6. School Engagement

- A high school student is leading a feasibility study on installing solar panels at the school, supported by Revision Energy and school officials.

7. Miscellaneous

- The committee discussed potential challenges in securing buy-in from the town council after upcoming elections.
- It was agreed that emphasizing cost savings and tangible community benefits would help garner support.

8. Next Steps

- David will finalize the memo about the consultant's contract extension and circulate it for review.
- Committee members will prepare materials and begin promoting the November workshop through social media, flyers, and the Cape Courier.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for: Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Location: Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall

Meeting Concluded

Motion to adjourn made by Sam, seconded by Rosie. The meeting concluded at 8:50 PM.

Submitted Respectfully,

David Bagdasarian, Facilities Director