

## Transcription Energy Committee 3/17/22

John V:

So, um, just for the record, um, I'm John Voltz, I'm the chairman also with us tonight of Dave Bagdasarian, Richard Parker, Sam Milton, Carrie Gilbert, an email from Nico de who's under the weather and will not be joining us tonight. And Sam Lipman is, will not be joining us. So just a couple of quick housekeeping things. Um, I was gonna ask for a volunteer note taker, but it looks like that Dave has actually solved that through a technology solution, which has taken the that's gonna stay with him, which is great. So terrific. Um, we don't need to do that. Then the other housekeeping note I wanted to make is care had suggested, uh, earlier it would be much easier for her if we move this, start time back to 7:00 PM instead of six 30. And I understand that and I'm gotta try and run these meetings as tightly as I can.

John V:

Um, uh, so that we can be, you know, that's sort of why I sort of had a target from 90 minute agenda, even though we've got a lot of stuff to talk to about tonight. Um, so if we start at seven and aim end by eight 30, that's my goal. So I'd like to do that for the future and list that as the meeting time, which is seven to eight 30 as the target meeting time, um, that it gives people with kids, a chance to get them fed and off to the next thing. And, um, shouldn't really change the schedule that much. It's mostly just try to run a little tighter meeting to accommodate that if, if that's okay with everybody, I'd like to make that change going forward. The other last little housekeeping thing is, um, following this meeting, I'm gonna, uh, uh, I'm gonna send around basically a, a sample agenda and I'd like to schedule all our meetings for the rest of the year and get them on the calendar. That, that basically is going to be, uh, a current project update, uh, current goals, update a communication update and, uh, any other business that should cover everything. We can have agendas for the, for the year, if we, when we will, as, as needed, we'll flesh out those points in the future.

John V:

And else wanna add to standing agenda.

Sam M:

I'd just like to add one item and as to thoroughly thank John for taking on the, the effort of kinda cleaning up the energy committee management and leadership. And so thank you, John. This is really, I think, you know, huge

John V:

Improvement. So David, will you please post all of our rest of the meetings for the entire year of the, uh, is it the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM to eight 30 with that standing agenda item?

Dave B:

Yeah, absolutely. That makes everything a lot easier.

John V:

So we'll never miss a meeting cause we didn't get it posted. Okay. Any public here does not look like they wanna check the waiting room. It's the second

Sam M:

Or the third Thursday.

Carrie:

I was just gonna say, I think we've been meeting the third Thursday,

John V:

Third. Sorry. My mistake.

Carrie:

I, it doesn't matter to me which one it is.

John V:

I, I do not have the, the facility calendar facility of my oldest child who would've immediately yelled at me for that. This is not the second. It's the third. He's the one who told me that. Did you know that the 10 month period between may and November every, uh, day of the month is a different starting day of the week for, for, um, seven months straight. So you are guaranteed to have a Monday, Tuesday, a Wednesday, a Saturday, a Sunday, Friday, a Thursday in, in that seven month period, it will not repeat. And there's no other 10 month strips that that occurs.

Sam M:

It's a fun fact.

John V:

I, I do not have that facility to recognize those patterns. Um, so third, Thursday, seven to already that's the standing agenda. Okay. Any public in the waiting room?

Dave B:

No.

John V:

All right. No public comment. So we have the minutes from the last meeting. Um, any, um, anyone have any additions or corrections to the minutes? Was that, was that the right date for the last meeting? That was the only thing I saw in the minutes was that,

Sam M:

Yeah, that was the one we, that we, I think we did not. No,

John V:

I, I think that was a February meeting. David muted.

Dave B:

Did I put March 3rd?

John V:

Yeah.

Dave B:

Yeah. February 3rd. Good call.

Sam M:

Yeah,

John V:

That was the only, all right, so we'll change the date and, uh, I, is there a motion to approve them as amended?

Sam M:

Um, I move to accept the amended minutes

Richard P:

Again,

John V:

All those in favor. Aye.

Marcia W:

Aye.

John V:

Any opposed its are approved. Okay. So now this is where we're sort of onto the, um, beginning part of the agenda and it's a little complicated cuz I wrote this agenda before. Um, I didn't have a chance to amend it, so this, it will roughly serve the functions tonight, so, oh, hi Marsha.

Marcia W:

Hi, you guys. Sorry about that. I misunderstood Dave today. Sorry, Dave.

John V:

Okay. I, I'm gonna pause. And now that there's public present, um, we'll step back back just a minute. There was any particular public comment that you wanted to make and

Marcia W:

Yes, um, as,

John V:

As our member of the public.

Marcia W:

Okay. Yes. Thanks so much you guys, um, for the next time that you meet, I have the concept design document ready for you and I'll make sure that's provided to Dave ahead of time. So it gets on your agenda and that you'll have access to it. So exciting things. Okay,

John V:

Great. Thank you. And then we've got an item for the, uh, school building update status. So I'm happy to have you participate in this, that second section. Great. All right, great. So, um, as I know, I talked to almost, I talked to ever on the committee a little bit about what, where, where we've been with the, uh, solar projects and the EV charger and some of the contracting and execution issues with the town. Um, and uh, at, at, at the suggestion of Richard Richard, I sat, I wanted to sit down with Matt directly and talk to him about this. Cuz was, I kept saying, thinking to myself, was that in all the cases, it seems to be a common problem of handing off a project that sort of teed up seems to make sense. And then when we get actually the contract piece of it did not seem to be well executed.

John V:

Um, there's and there's two pieces of the execution. One of those is basically did the business requirements get matched in the contract in cases the solar deals that pretty much did. And then the other pieces are the contracts actually enforceable. Um, and we've had problems with all three of our contracts with respect to enforceability. And as I was talking to my brother who is, uh, not currently practicing, but was an attorney and a litigated for long time, just that's the only thing you look at, which is why you have a contract, the contracts not enforceable, you're better off without a contract.

John V:

Um, and so I did it down to Matt and I thought that like, look, there seems to be a capability gap. This keeps happening. Um, and I wanted to say, do, are you seeing the same thing that I'm seeing? Cuz if there's this capabilities gap we we'd like to really solve that. It really impairs what we're doing. If, if there's a capabilities gap, we'd love to support, you know, help you solve this capabilities gap. Um, because if you know, supports you at the town council and help you in the town, get the resources we need to execute on the business criteria and the enforceability of contracts. And, um,

John V:

I, I sort of left that out there that we're really on the same team and trying to get the same thing done and really like it's in everybody's interest to be able to do this. As I sort of said, we either have to, and I may have said this, some of to people on phone calls is like, we either have to stop telling people we can juggle or we have to get juggling skills, cuz right now we're telling people we can juggle and we're breaking things. Okay. And that's not tenable, it's happened three different times now. Um, it's particularly with respect to enforceability and Matt was not on the same page with that. He does not really see a capabilities gap and I'm, I was, I'm a bit baffled and I was trying to understand, I says, well, tell me about your process. Do we have standard terms and conditions?

John V:

Do we have a document you always write up that says, okay, here's the key terms that need to be in the contract that go to the person who's writing the contract or reviewing the contract. And it says, well, the RFP kind of has stood in for that. Um, and that no, and they, they go through the account attorney and that's it. And I was like, well, if these went through the attorney, there seems to be a gap because like I said, these contracts are enforceable. Um, and that's like contracts 1 0 1 really? Um, and so we're not in alignment. I just like, I dunno how you, and so I asked him again, so I try to understand, um, what you seem to be indicating. These are one off issues that it's, this, it's all this combination of problems that add up to this. And these are all unique circumstances.

John V:

I'm saying, what do you see? What that gives you confidence that, that those, these are all, you know, unusual three unusual circumstances, one after the other. And he was just saying, well, things are getting done. They're getting built, you know, on time and below budget. And I was like, that's not really the same thing. That's like basically saying, I'm saying, do you have seat belts? And you're saying, well, people are getting from here to there on time. I'm saying that's different. It's not the same thing. You only know if you have a seatbelt on when your car crashes and we've had three car crashes and no one was wearing seat belts. So I, that, that's where we left the conversation. It's like he does not seem to see a problem. And I'm like, I, I'm not sure.

Carrie:

It seems like maybe there's a problem with the attorney as well, because you would expect that attorney who's advising you about contracts would be pointing out some of these things

John V:

I would agree. But again, he has real confidence in our talent attorney. And I was like, We're, we're not in a having seen these contracts that supposedly went through their review. I have, I have little confidence in our talent attorney.

Carrie:

Cause we did identify the, yeah, we did identify the potential issue with the solar PPA. Remember that, um, that we would need an attorney who was familiar with solar PPAs to review. Yeah, we did. And I wasn't sure, I don't even know who our town attorney is. Um,

John V:

So we, we have had the same town attorney for some time, the person who's working on our account has changed. It used to be a name partner. And now it's a couple of different people, but again, the thing that went wrong in the solar contract was not a solar deal technicality. It was enforceability around what happens if they don't do what they say they're gonna do. There's no recourse or process at all in that contract.

Carrie:

Yeah. No, it seems weird that there's no damages cuz that's what, that's what we,

John V:

Or reporting requirements or anything, anything that says when they're going. Right. Here's what you do.

Carrie:

Yeah. So

John V:

Anyway, I mean just I'm, I'm baffled I'm so I'm not sure,

Richard P:

You know, a simple, relatively simple case is just the EV charges. I mean that's not a long contract and just, you know, the, the omissions and the problems of the are just glaring.

John V:

I know

Richard P:

There's nothing in there about, you know, liability or, or indemnification or anything like that. And that's, that's all standard stuff. I mean, that's, that can be boiler plate stuff.

John V:

I know, you know, like I said, if, if this were,

Richard P:

It was right by the town attorney, then we need to look for another town attorney.

John V:

I agree if my, if my attorney gave that to me, I would fire them. I was like, but again, Matt, Matt has this absolute confidence in our town attorney and I'm again, I feel like the only thing that we can do at this point is, you know, advise the town council who we report to of what, you know, this is where we're at.

Carrie:

I think that's the right way to go. John is advising the town council that we're frustrated with the contracts on these projects we've been working on. We've put a lot of effort into the, um, into all of them and the, and they haven't come. Like we haven't come to the fish finish line the way we like

John V:

We're we're three for three on contract problems.

Carrie:

I'm sorry. What's the third contract. I know we've got the solar, the

John V:

Additional solar procurement contract.

Carrie:

Oh the additional solar procurement. And so that one, that one is not going either

John V:

Again, same problems as the other one. There's nothing to get them to do it now, from what I understand,

Richard P:

There's nothing, there's nothing, you know, there's nothing nothing's been done. I mean there's no, there's no check and balances. There's no, you know, there's no, um, nothing in

John V:

The contract. If you don't start the work we can cancel there's no, if you don't start the work, here's what you have to pay us. There's no, you indemnify us for our losses because you didn't perform there's nothing.

Richard P:

Well, I think, you know, you did the right thing, John. I mean, by going to step by starting with, with, with Matt and um, now I think we can legitimately go to the town council and ask for the guidance. You know, I think that's, that's

Carrie:

David, David. I think you're trying to say something, but you're on mute. I saw your mouth moving.

Dave B:

Oh, I was saying, I, I like what something John said at one time that we shouldn't just be taking these contracts, uh, face value that they give us, not even, you know, adding anything or changing anything. It's like, obviously it's in their favor when they're, they're handing us the contract and we're just signing on the bottom line on some, you know, high price items.

Carrie:

Yeah. No, I think that's true. I mean, I'm no contract expert by my observation, just in any contract we do at work for any new project, is we off, there's always a back and forth between the, you know, the, the people who are in charge of that stuff. It's not me, but there's always a back and forth.

Richard P:

And, and usually it can, they just take the form of, you know, we put out our own contract, we refer to their, to their quote, but we have said, you know, we have some boiler plate in there about indemnification and stuff like that. And we say that any, anything that, that this what's in our, this contract, this boiler plate, we refer to their quote, but we say anything in this contract, in the town's wording that is different. It supersedes anything that's in your quotation and we can. Yeah. And that's just, and all that is is just a matter of just having a one sheet. That's got the, got our boiler plate. And then in, in, in the section, it just refer to their quotation. That's it. If that's, cuz that's all we did now, we're just signing their quota with nothing to back it up. That's that's really legal and it's really dead, dead, simple to cover a lot of these problems.

Carrie:

I wonder if we should write a memo and

Richard P:

If we can't get it right for this, what are we gonna do for an 80 million school contract?

Carrie:

Like, should we write a memo of our three projects?

John V:

My currently cause again, in the long run, there's no percentage in beating people up. I just wanna, I just want the problem fixed. So, so the, the thing that I'm, you know, it doesn't seem to have Matt's attention as a problem, but we don't report them. I went Matt, we report to the town council and I was thinking in general, I wanted to talk to some of the town counselors individually anyway, because we've also gotta fix the communication with the town council piece of this because if any town counselors had ever come to any of our meetings, 40 to 60% of our conversation is what's going wrong with these contracts.

John V:

Okay. That's the wrong balance. And that's something they shouldn't be unaware of. So that piece of it is broken. Um, so I just wanna, I, I think it'd be, might be worth having, um, a conversation with, uh, each of the town councilors about how you would like to get communication from the energy. And here's an example of some things that have been going on that you need to be aware of, but start the conversation on, on, we haven't been that hasn't been a good line of communication and I'm gonna fix that piece to start with and here's a good sample issue. So that would be my approach because then it's a one on one conversation and they can go make their own assessment. If they think, you know, the contracts are suitable for the town to be signing and they can make their own assessment and I would encourage them to do so. Um, we, we don't need to be the, you know, backseat lawyer for the town, but we, if we see a problem, we should tell the town council that that's, that's my, um, approach. So

Carrie:

Are you thinking, John, you'll go. Just, who are you? Who are you gonna reach out to? Who's

John V:

I with the chairman? And I would, and I would talk to everybody, but that, but I do wanna talk to everybody based on how do you wanna get information from this committee? Cause right now there's nothing we're. I mean, we can also just start throwing things over the transom, which is which we could do as well, but because it's such an ongoing problem, I think having those and because we've got a sensitive issue having 101 conversations I think is a lot less threatening than, um, you know, that memo I wrote before was, um, very diplomatic. And you kind of had to read through the, between the lines to get the, how, how much on fire our, our hair was with these contracts earlier. Um, and the prior drafted memo and this town not gonna read between those lines in my view. So that kind of diplomatic memo was not gonna be effective. And so, but if I'm having one on one conversation, I can lay out the, the, the case more.



Carrie:

And of course this meeting, this recorded meeting for someone to get the information.

John V:

Well, again, we're not, I'm not hiding anything. Yeah. But it's like, I, I want to be effecti.

Carrie:

Yeah.

Sam M:

Yeah. And if there are channels that are a little bit less embarrassing for us to go through, you know, to the town, that would be appreciated. I'm sure.

John V:

So that, that was my thought was just to try and sit down with all the, the counselors and talk about town council and, and committee communication and this particular issue around contracting and execution. Hey Sam, you did join us. Audio was still connecting.

Sam M:

You can't hear us

John V:

Well, no, we, we don't know. He, he might be able to hear us. We can't hear him.

Sam M:

No, no.

John V:

Now he is connected, but he's muted. All right.

Sam M:

Okay. All right. You're muted. That's okay. We'll get you later in.

Richard P:

I think it's, you know, it's probably too late to do anything on the EV contracts. I mean, I think

John V:

I agree. I think that's,

Richard P:

Unfortunately I think that's a done deal, but you know, I think that we still have some things that we need to get going on these solar fields. I mean, let's, you know.

John V:

Yeah. Well, again, and as we just, we, we may have discussed individually or at the last meeting, it's, it's hard to jump in and try and help fix these kinds of contract problems on the solar side. If we still have the blocking and tackling contract execution piece hanging out there, Cause that's eventually gonna have to come down and write, we're gonna have to write something new to deal with our situation. But honestly, right now, as I said, for the solar, at least on the landfill project, I'm not sure I'd be in a hurry to renegotiate price right now. Cause we have a, you know, we have a price that's in the contract and if you're not gonna honor the contract, please write me and tell me,

Sam M:

Did you get a, a sense, John, from, um, from Matt, you where that is right now, the solar

John V:

Solar one. I have no idea. The EV one actually again, the EV one is starting to move now cuz it was actually not even moving. Um, cuz he, he called the owner cuz he knows him personally. Um, as I said, that's the kind of thing you do when you don't have a contract as opposed to an enforceable contract. So again, things are happening and we're avoiding, crashing and burning entirely because of other things attributes that we have not what's in our contract.

Sam M:

Oh boy, it seems like we've stumbled upon, you know, a, um, just a town, just, you know, good governance, you know, you know, issue. And there's probably another form for that conversation to take place. Um, again, yeah. And

John V:

At this point, like I said, I, I wanna make sure that the town counselors know about it. They know that we've assessed that there's a significant weakness. Um, particularly around the process before and through the legal review of contracts And that it has put us in a bad position three times in a row from the energy committee's point of view.

Sam M:

Yeah. I mean it could, it could be just that we're, we're, we're pushing the envelope to such an extent that is press is put, you know, it's, it's, it's really kind, you know, throwing the, the system off balance, but again, not not mean are hard, you know, to,

John V:

There are things that are, there are things that are unique about each one of the kind contracts that the energy committee put forward. However, the contract mistakes are so basic. That's not an excuse if the return reviews it he's there because any mistakes that went before he's there to catch that's his job when he looked, says, I looked at it and it's okay. And if he has people's signing contracts that are unenforceable, that's a fail,

Sam L:

John, you know, the going back to the solar contract, just as an example, we really, even in that case, we had very little to do with it. But I, I know that the two, two red liners and myself and Tom, we made

some, some suggestions that would've tied this thing a up a little bit differently, but they had, they had a quote unquote energy practice lawyer, and then we didn't get to see for a long time what that looked like to make our comments. Cause, cause you know, we've all written contracts and I've, I, we do 'em all the time on my side with these old contracts. So, so you're right there. There's been some kind of a disconnect where they've relied on again. I think it's the same thing, but you think they've relied on someone else to do something that we should have been, have more authority to do in the first place? Maybe that was part of theirs. Yeah.

John V:

But at, at this point I, I don't think it's, there's, I, I don't think that there's any value in engaging in the legal process, what the town is going through right now. We've tried that they don't think there's a problem. They're happy with what they're doing. Our job is to tell the town council and then act as a committee accordingly. And it's like, you know, it's sort of a fool me once, shame on shame on you fool me twice, shame on me kind of a situation in some respect. Uh, I mean we, we stand ready to help, but we've gotta feel like it's actually gonna be affected and anyone has thoughts. So right now I will try and have those conversations about communication and about the contracting issue directly with town counselors and report back. Does that seem like a reasonable approach?

Carrie:

I think that's a good approach. Yep.

John V:

Okay. All right. Hang on a second.

Sam M:

Right. I'm trying to remember back from kind of when the committee got kicked off, if there was to be some sort of, I guess it never was established like, you know, a, for a formal milestones in our work with, you know, with, with town council, I mean, guess there, that was, that's kind of, that, that was part of the problem. There was never really any reporting mechanism whatsoever. So

John V:

There was never really, there never was one and there ne so there was never anything to go by. There's never been an expectation. It's, there's a very loose requirement and there's no enforcement or no, even noticing if we don't report. So it's up to us to fix it. Um, cause and so we can fix it anyway. We like, um, we'll get to the reporting piece at the end. That was just gonna go in order right now. Um, so I have a way to address the, um, contracting issue. So I think we are now onto school building status, Pete, and also electing a, a rep. Um, so school building status. Uh, I know there's been more work by the school building committee. I, I hear it a third hand cuz it's happening in my household. Um, I think they're proceeding to get a more detailed estimate, which I think is, um, a, a very good thing. Uh, so they'll actually have a better idea of what's involved, uh, and better have some better cost numbers. Maybe not as, as good as we would want them to be. But, um, I think that's, that's a plus and I think they're, they're starting to look at potentially what kind of, um, systems and things that would put in place.

Sam L:

Hey, Hey John, I have a question for you. Uh, you know, you're pretty deep into this thing and your wife's school board reading the fact that the budget is being, being blown apart, basic glee for this, this

whole building process. Uh, is there any chance that, um, this won't happen or it won't happen in the kind of way we think it's gonna happen in the first place? Because you know, I can just see this they'll they'll, they'll have 145 million budget go for probably a tax increase and they made the, it might be a big fight over that process.

John V:

I gotta back you up for a second right now cuz the 145 million number that's being thrown around by there by people who, um, are already opposing it. And that's like saying the cost of your house is the cost of all your mortgage payments. Okay. So you, the not the price you bought it for. So the people playing already playing fast and loose with the numbers on the politics side of it. And you just need to be aware of that. Again, the question is, you know, at a very high level and this is just me speaking, yes, there's a chance it doesn't go forward. But honestly, um, having seen those buildings and looking at it, you're gonna need to pick in the next five to 10 years, whether you're gonna wanna support public schools in this town or you're not, cuz we don't have the buildings can currently do that.

John V:

And if we don't, that's that's, you know, that's fine. People are gonna up going to private schools, but if we are gonna be continue to be a leader in public education, you're gonna need a building to do it. And, and the buildings are gonna cost. They're not gonna, they don't come free. You know, it's like they we've, we've been not spending on them for some time and we haven't been maintaining them to the level and people have been, you know, had their heads in the sand about that for a long, long time. So either you wanna support public education and this is what it's gonna take or you don't. So that's gonna be the debate. And I don't know how, I honestly don't know which way it's gonna go. Every town nearby us has don't push, but you anticipate we are gonna get a fight on this thing. It at this point. Yeah. Oh yes. But I also think the school leadership team, um, we currently have is up for that. I think they're quite good.

John V:

So, um, that's my knowledge of the update around the, um, just preface we'll get into this thing around the rep rep to the, uh, building committee. Richard has told me now that he's actually working with Colby company, so he's conflicted and cannot continue to do that role. Um, Nico, who's not here and his email raised his hand and said, he'd be interested to do it. If there's more than one person on the committee, who's also interested. I would, I would say great. I don't know. I encourage that. I think everyone on this committee has something to add if they're, um, and so if someone else wants to raise their hand and uh, back up, uh, Nico or do it with him. Great. So,

Carrie:

Um, well I am, I'm the parent of a four year old, but I'm who clearly will be going to the schools through their entire, all of the schools in question he will attend. Um, but I I'm concerned, I don't really have time. So, um, if Nico wants to do it, um, and if he has to miss a meeting or something I'm happy to fill in, that might be it.

John V:

So what I would do encourage you to do Carrie is just do it as a second, but as attend as many as you can. But that way you can make sure that if one of you has to, if you missed that then and know that Nick will be the primary one and you sort of be the backup. Okay. Yeah. Yeah. That'd be great. Anyone

else? If not, I would move that. We elect Nico, um, as the primary representative and carry as the, the, the second, um, do I, anyone second in my chairman's motion. Okay. All those in favor.

Sam M:

Okay.

John V:

Well and that's unanimous. There's no one opposed. Great. All right. So now we're actually on to talking about, um, goals. So, um,

Carrie:

And where do I find, like how does, where are the information like how, how does one go to the meetings and stuff

John V:

It's on the school website and there's marsh Marsha, can you send Carrie info on that?

Marcia W:

I definitely can.

John V:

And actually send it to Carrie and Nico.

Marcia W:

Yes.

John V:

And Nico's contact info I think is on the website if no, I'll get and send it to you.

Marcia W:

Okay, perfect.

Sam M:

And, and maybe John and Marsha, do you have a sense, um, when these meetings become super important to attend, if I mean, they all are, I'm sure. You know, but you know, when are those kind of, you know, we have to be present during a certain presentation and that's gonna happen typically, you know, and or whatever. Do you have a sense of that? I,

Carrie:

That would be good to know.

Marcia W:

Yeah. Um, well this coming Monday, there's a big public forum. We just had a public forum last week and there's another one that's coming Monday with tours through both buildings currently to show the

public, the status of the two buildings starts at six 30 this Monday, Monday. Okay. Six 30 this Monday. And it's gonna be a, we really now have launched this great public forum format to start getting information to people. And now that we can be in public people can actually see the buildings. And I just wanna do a shout out to Cindy John, because our website is CE. I think it's CE building project.org and it's a fabulous website. She did a great job. It's really well done.

John V:

I'm very happy. Cuz last meeting she had was I'm handing all the stuff off.

Marcia W:

Yeah. Yes. It's fabulous. You guys get a chance. I'll put it. Uh, Dave, can you put it in the chat for me?

John V:

Just did.

Marcia W:

Oh excellent. You are fast. It is great. And that is yes. And my next fiscal subcommittee, anybody who wants to attend that, um, I have that as a public link, um, on March 31st and that's the fiscal sub subcommittee to start discussing just the cost estimates and the plans with that and in our meetings with the state, um, that kind of thing. Um, so the, the two websites, the have like every single meeting, the information that you'll need, but we're gonna start having public forums, uh, starting once a month from here on out starting Monday night.

Carrie:

Okay. Of course. I just realized that I can't go Monday nights.

Marcia W:

Oh, don't worry. Don't worry. Don't worry. We're gonna have more, but this, this is gonna be good, but don't you worry? We're gonna have many more. I have,

Carrie:

I have a client in and I can only with him in the evenings.

John V:

And I, I know that routine

Carrie:

At seven, I already agreed to meet with him at seven on Monday, so I don't think that's gonna work, but,

Marcia W:

Um,

John V:

I used to

Marcia W:

Have, I'll send you, I'll send you more information. Okay.

John V:

I used to have a company that had a oh, research lab in Germany and a research lab in a and I was in San Francisco, which meant somebody had to get up in the middle of the night.

Sam M:

Um, Marsha John, could you, could you, um, maybe put into the chat, the, the website that, um, you were referring to the, the URL, I didn't quite catch the full, you know, the name of Marsha.

John V:

Can you do that?

Marcia W:

Yes, do it right now.

Dave B:

And Sam also, just so you know, the, the meetings are really just kind of heating up. Now. The last meeting was kinda the first public input meeting. And even then it was only like 22 people in attendance, but, um, some of the hotter topics are kind of just making their way to the surface.

John V:

It sounds like the last meeting which was recorded is, is, is, uh, worth watching. If you wanna just get a grounding and where and where people and what the plan is and where some of the public are at.

Dave B:

There's a long meeting too, though.

John V:

It is

Marcia W:

Okay. Just put it in the chat. See if you guys can see that, ah, it's, it's really worth looking at you guys just because, um, Cindy did such a good job with it and, and I just had a MBA marketing class for website design as part of it. And, um, I'm telling you, John, she would've aced that

John V:

Mom's spoiled. I'm just, that's my baseline for quality. So yeah,

Marcia W:

That's

Sam M:

Great.

Carrie:

So Richard though, you're working with the architecture firm, all this you're on mute.

Richard P:

I've been working with, um, through Colby for another project. And so, uh, I really am not working for him and I'm really not involved in this project, but if it becomes controversial, someone could say that I'm technically on his payroll, but I'm, and, and a few years ago I was doing quite a bit of work, but after retired, but now it's, it's pretty tenuous, but it would, if it gets controversial, someone could say, well, I'm, I'm technically still on his payroll. So Politically speaking, I wouldn't be a good thing.

Sam M:

Yeah. You're behind the big blow up at the school. Right?

Marcia W:

Yeah.

Sam M:

Makes sense.

John V:

All right. So we are on discussion for goals for the year.

John V:

So, um, as I was thinking about this goals for the year, um, and I went to the town councils meeting on goals. And as I may have told you last time, they're, they're not at the point where they can coordinate at the towns goals with committee goals at all. Maybe they'll revisit it in a year. Um, the one thing they did say at that meeting is they, they would like to have some time this year, a presentation and understanding of what are the pluses and minuses cost and benefits that's of having a climate plan. And I felt like that was something that the energy committee is F decently down the road of at least understanding and, and something that we could probably take on. And that may be worth coordinating with some of the other committees in town to, uh, about some of the areas that might touch on. Are

Carrie:

They thinking there may be some, I mean, there's really not a, any downside to having a climate plan, as far as I know. Well,

John V:

You do take no you, well, here's the thing you do take time, energy and resources, and what do you get for those? And what you get for those things are things like, um, more resilient infrastructure you get, you know, lower, uh, greenhouse gas footprint. You get, you know, it is really going through the why you wanna, why, why climate and why it's worth spending money on, um, and why people will wanna engage with that. Um, and so it's not no cost, but it's not high cost either. And particularly because we can leverage, um, what I think are relatively good plans, um, locally, both at the state and regional level



with the Portland south Portland and the state plan. Um, and there's also just by the other reason you do it is because there will be funding for these sorts of activities that do provide benefits. Yeah. Just announced recently there's a million dollars going to the, you know, climate science for the implement, you know, partly to do the implementation of the main plan.

Carrie:

Yeah. I'm a, I'm a summer resident of north event and, um, the town is doing this whole visioning process and part of it's a climate plan. And part of the reason behind that is to be able to get funding, to address, um, issues. Um,

John V:

And you know, and Cape has significant resiliency issues, both around, uh, wetlands and around infrastructure around overall, you know, greenhouse gas footprint, a bunch of things, access to green space. You know, there's a, there's a anyway, I feel like the energy committee has some expertise that could get a far, uh, reasonably far away down the road of providing that to the town council. And that's something I think would be worth the energy committee, at least spearheading as a goal this year to present sometime in the early fall to the town council here, we think is what a climate plan, um, would look like. What, what might include what its process is. Here's what the cost and benefits of that would be.

Sam M:

Did we ever find out if the town engaged, uh, GP cog at all, uh, over, over the past few months on this, I know that was a plan

Carrie:

I did. I did read, reach out to, um, GM MRI, and now I'm just searching my emails to see what they said in response. Cause they did, they were, there was a bit of a delay, but they did respond. So I did have some resources there. I didn't reach out to GP cog. I don't think I was the one that was supposed to do that. But, um,

John V:

So what I've got in mind for goals for the year right now, again, I wish I had a chance to write this up is provide the town council with a cost and benefits and what a climate plan would, could look like sometime this fall solve the communi, uh, committee communication problem in a way that is documented. So future your committees can follow it. Um, and then the other one is more on the goal on the, you know, continue to support the ongoing projects as needed. And the last one is to do some more things that are informational in their, uh, um, impact. Um, and I was thinking something around on either energy or climate fair also towards that fall timeframe where we could basically, um, provide some education about what's been happening in green energy. What's been happening in green building. What's been happening in, um, you know, some of the re resiliency, uh, um, other kinds of aspects of things that would be in climate per cause.

John V:

You know, a lot of that's changed in the last 20 years and there's, um, a lot of people don't really know the status of stuff. Uh, I know that I know that's particularly true on clean energy cuz I know that field particularly well. And when I talk to people, there are misconceptions about, um, electricity and energy

prices and things like that are, are substantial. So I I'd love to be able to put more throw, uh, thoughtful information out there in a consumable format, potentially work with the library. Anyway, I, I think that would be a worthwhile thing to do and to set as a, another potential goal for the year. I'm interested in, uh, feedback around that. So one to the town count informational basis, um, sort of haven't defined the format or timeframe yet for that, uh, document and solve the, uh, the committee communication problem and support the ongoing projects.

Sam L:

Are we, uh, John, are we, uh, hooking up and, or, or using, uh, this forum also to become kind of a facilitator to what the governor is trying to do? In other words, some of those programs that she he's putting it together may be part of this whole process, making them, where is that something you're thinking of as part of that, or

John V:

I don't know enough to say, say one way or the other at this point, but my thought was contact the government governor's climate office plan, whatever saying, here's what we're thinking of. We'd love to have you come, come talk, uh, same with the people who did the Portland south Portland plan. And then I, you know, I, I know, or I'm capable myself of handling some stuff on the green energy side and just sort of figure out, have a put together a series of people who can present interesting comprehensive info. Yeah,

Carrie:

Yeah, yeah. Um, I just found the email that Gail, my neighbor Gail, um, works at G MRI and I asked her what they were doing for communities. And they, she says that they, um, they're partner on a new grant with GP cog to work with coastal communities on their climate resilience plans. And Cape Elizabeth is one of the communities it's covered under the grant and they can help communities who wanna participate in the, um, the governor's office of the future in this community resilience partnership. And then it sounds like they've got, um, people who are sort of experts on coastal flooding and things like that. Um, I, so they might be a resource too.

John V:

Yeah, absolutely.

Carrie:

So, um,

John V:

If, if the goal also is just, just my general bias is if your goal also is to get people sort of involved in wanna act and do something, um, I might consider trying to follow the formula, which is the, the, um, apparently was passed on to me, is this was the formula the army chaplain school would give to chaplains for Sunday sermons, which is, oh yeah, you want two thirds hell in damnation in one third salvation. So you need to be able to define for people what the climate problem is, what the, what the challenges are, and then talk about, um, developments and solutions. So I, I, cause I, I think there, you know, I, I think that that's actually a hard part of, uh, presenting it well, is what, what really is the, the current problems in urgency?

Sam M:

Are you envisioning it at? I love, I totally support the idea of doing more on community outreach and engagement. Um, are, are you, are you thinking about like a monthly seminar at the library or

John V:

My thought actually is to do as a single day or a weekend event and have a couple of different presentations and, um, you know, couple of individual speakers, maybe a panel talk or two, depending on where we're at with COVID, you might be able to have an actual event. If, if not, we can, you can plan a virtual one, potentially work with the library. Uh, I it's really kind of free form, but it's just sort like, um, it's the information piece to the public that sort of fits with the climate plan stuff that we're doing that we may, that we may maybe going out to present? Um, that's the way I would describe it. Um, again, I, that's just my thought if any of other people have thoughts and ideas on, you know, or saying, Hey, that doesn't make any sense. I, I, why would we wanna do that? Let me know I'm I'm but I think that, you know, I continue to be impressed both with this groups, both overall expertise, as well as, um, connections. And so I think if we, uh, sort of came up with the general format, we could fill it out pretty nicely with a pretty good group of, of speakers and discussions.

John V:

And I think it would be, I think it would be valued by the community. So, and it's, you know, again, relatively low cost, potentially high impact is my view.

Sam M:

What do we think about the idea of, um, regular or semi-regular, uh, piece in the courier? I know we kinda around,

John V:

I, I like that. I, I think the, the trick is to get more than one writer cuz uh, if you've got more, if you've got one writer, it puts a lot of pressure on that person to write. Um, uh, and again, part of that is, is finding topics that people will be of interest. And I don't, you know, that's the other challenge, Richard, any thoughts on goals? What I've said so far? You're muted uhoh everyone's muted. Just me. I'm the only one I'm muted now is I'm Richard's unmuted.

Richard P:

Well, I think, um, I guess I come down to the it to effectiveness as a committee and what we're really doing. And um, I think it, it, uh, uh, I think that, um, I think it's first, I think we need to get this, anything we do at this point, I feel frustrated that just there's no follow through there's nothing get done. So I think it's part of the conversations that you have with the committee, uh, and the town council is, uh, that should fix this as well. And so that anything we come up with, we're not just, you know yep. Wasting the time. Um, so I think that somehow I think the first thing we need to make sure we are is, is heard and that we're relevant. And, um, I think that it, it, and I think that it's important that we go, we don't, we don't propose more than what we can actually accomplish and be effective as with.

Richard P:

So I think that, you know, maybe the first thing, one of the things of course is just to look at GP cog and all this things, all the stuff they're doing and, uh, maybe just, um, um, make a presentation to the co

council about how far behind the eight ball we actually are. And maybe that's something that is just, just done upfront and first, and then if we can wake them up. And I think that maybe, um, what we come up with would be a little more effective, a little bit dismay when you said, you know, when you talked to 'em and they said, what do we need one for, you know?

John V:

Yeah. Well, again, I, I think that the, the current incarnation of the, uh, town council has less knowledge about these topics. And so we do have to back up a bit.

Richard P:

I mean, one of the things I wonder about is that, you know, are, are they, is our tax base along the coast being threatened by, by rising rising water. I mean, some of these million dollar houses may, their tax base may go to pot if, and so it's a water rise,

John V:

We'll have brand new waterfront property that will increase in value

Richard P:

Anyways. That's my only thought I just wanna, I just,

Carrie:

Yeah,

Richard P:

I think we need to get, we need to get this thing settled. I think our communication so that we can be effective and come up with something. Well, I

John V:

Mean, in, in some respects, part of my thought lots for goals for the year were guided by one of the things we can do is provide information both to the town council and the public that is useful, cuz there's a lot of lack of understanding out there. And so that's something we could be impactful on that doesn't depend on town execution. It just depends on committee execution. And so that was like to be able to take that on to just say, this is in our wheelhouse, we can do this on our own. Um, and so that's how I, that's sort of how I came to, um, shifting to what

Carrie:

Yeah, I think, I think one challenge on the, the climate plan piece is that our committee is really set up well to a, I sort of see sort of two big pieces to a climate plan. One is adaptation and one is the emissions reduction. And so obviously we are really well set up to tackle the energy use emissions reductions that piece. But in terms of climate adaptation, that's not really in our mandate at all, but given that we are a town, a coastal town, who's basically a peninsula thinking about what sea level rise means to us is probably something the town should be doing, just planning for, you know, public works improvements that are gonna be needed. And I know other places in Maine are working on that. Um, and so if we're not doing that, we're definitely behind. Um,

John V:

So we're, again, I think also the town is doing some of that. That's what some of these culverts projects have been about. And there's some work going on around, you know, the title intrusion and spur wink, and the Scarborough's talking about potentially closing that section of Sawyer cuz of all the title inundation and working with Kate Elizabeth on, on some of that stuff. So there's a bunch of stuff that's happening. And again, I think the it'll be helpful to get people in from mentioned about why this stuff is happening and what it costs and why it's important, which is not out there. Um, so, uh,

Richard P:

Well I think that the, the first thing that, well, one of the first things we ought do is just, we need to, um, identify potential vulnerabilities that would, might get people's attention. But the other I'd may mention is that, you know, the school project has taken all the oxygen out of the room at this point. So I don't think we should anticipate doing much, uh, until this gets, uh, at least settled one way or another. And so I agree we can do things here, but I don't think we should push too hard, uh, because I don't think we're gonna have much of an audience until the school thing gets settled. Our stuff should be preliminary. And, and, and, and in preparation for when, when we have the audience

John V:

And part, part of the challenge with the, you know, the climate plan is there's part of it. You can't shortcut, there's gotta be a community engagement piece to the starting PLA point on the climate plans, as I understand. And that, that takes a year from go to do that right. And if you don't do that, right, your climate plan won't have community engagements is not likely to be successful. And so, you know, that's, you know, that's like, you need it. Here's why, and this is, and the timeframe is you gotta take that year. And then after that, you can, you can accelerate some because you can leverage what other people nearby have done. So, you know, drafting off the Portland, south Portland plan and the, and the main state plan will accelerate you a lot, cuz you can just, you know, follow along with a lot of what they did and say, does this fit with me or not? Or how do I change this to fit with me, which is a huge, huge hell. And I've read both those climate plans and I think they're pretty good. So, but there isn't a, it is gonna be quite a while before we, they do anything on the climate plan besides decide they want one and then do the community outreach port portion. And you know, that's two years down the road, but I mean, if, if we wanna do one, that's what it's gonna take.

Sam M:

So they, they say there was the, when they wanted to, you know, do this study or whatever, you know, but you know, with the pros and cons of a action, no,

John V:

They, they just said they would like to like to know that. And my thought was, well, the most impactful way to do this is to make sure that they've got it before Nove, you know, well before November. So people have a chance to say, what do you think of this? Cause if you do an after November, no one will care

Sam M:

November being the title election. Yes. Yeah. Yeah.

John V:

I mean, I think, I think you'll get much better attention if you do it heading into, you know, before, before the elections happen. And I think we are also positioned to do it. We've done a bunch of the, we we've done a fair bit of preliminary work. I think we need to organize and you know, grind on it a little bit to have a presentation, but I think we could get there relatively quickly to say here's what a plan would look like. Here's what the, here's what your, uh, here's what the cost and effort will be. And here's what the, the benefits could be. And here's what you're foregoing, if you don't.

Sam M:

Yeah. Is that something that, you know, when you're talking to, to the, uh, town council members, um, and then coming, coming weeks, if that would be something to, to bring up, um, that, you know, you are, you know, willing and able to just, you know, contribute to that effort.

John V:

I, I, I think I've just gotta tell 'em I think we'll be better off. We just tell 'em we're gonna do it. Cause if, if we don't, it won't happen. The there's no other one, no one else is gonna say I'm gonna do that.

Sam M:

Right.

John V:

Okay. If, if we don't do it, it won't happen. And then we're still, you know, we're another year away. All right. So, um, again, I haven't flush. So in general, like I said, support the existing projects, present the council of plus as a climate plan, consider doing a parallel sort of energy climate fair, again, same fallish timeframe, um, and fix and document the, how we wanna communicate and report to the, um, town council. That's for that's the goals for the year. For me, any anyone think that's O you know, is it sufficient? Do we need more, do we need too much?

Richard P:

Are there, are there other opportunities out there for funding, for projects? I mean, you know, one of the things we did was we, we, we, uh, was Carrie that identified initially that, um, uh, the rebates that were available for the EV vehicles. Um, is there anything else out there that anyone's available or can identify that we should be, we make some funds available that we could work on?

John V:

I think we could just basically say that we'll proactively look for those opportunities and respond, um, as we're able, I think that's fine. I think that's what we did.

Carrie:

There's some funding for climate planning, right. I think I sent that around too. So, so that might be something that town wants to get in on

Sam L:

A great idea about funding. Uh, Richard, and, and I think, you know, I always think that, and, and wish this came through with the solo project so far that we should have a hard asset on the grant to make us make us viable in some ways. Uh, but, but you know, in, in what Carrie mentioned about getting a grant

for something, the issue is having somebody write a grant, do the work and, and that's, that's another, um, again, I, I said, I mentioned the governor's office only because I think that, um, it's not about the governor's office. It's really about what programs are out there we should be aware of. And we should lo onto something if we can. I really do. I just kind of, so I'm all I'm saying is I think I, I back you up on that, Richard, I think having something hard, I, I think also, um, outreach is really part of what we do. We should have always done that, but this, but, but I think we're really focused as a group. If we get something to do physically, you know, a hard asset to get on we've I think it would focus us a lot better too, to get under a project, so to speak or two,

Richard P:

I agree. You know, getting, you know, some, some hard something we can actually put our teeth in, I think is, is important and something we can be infected with and especially given the, given the talent that we've got on the committee. Um, and, but again, um, I don't wanna, I come up with something again and, and do something and not have not have the, the mechanism in place for us to be able to follow through and have it be successful.

John V:

Well, I, I, I, part of the, part of that, Richard, I think is the recommendation that we make, whatever it makes needs to go straight to the town council. So they have eyes on it, not the town staff. Yeah. And I think that's part of the challenge. And then again, um, I think, uh, we could address some of that too, in terms of how we continue to communicate and update to the town council that will, uh, it may not solve it, but it, it will, um, it's not gonna have the invisibility problem we've had in the past,

Richard P:

I guess. I'd just say that if, if, uh, anyone come, anyone, I identify something similar to what, you know, efficiency main came up or any of those other projects or any other thing that, that is that may, um, pop up in your work experience or as you're doing, you know, um, just be aware of those and, and flag 'em and bring 'em to the committee and we'll decide whether wanna work on 'em or not.

John V:

So, so can we, can we structure that does a goal that, you know, committee members will proactively look for opportunities like that we may or may not find them, but I think that's, that's a worthwhile sort of goal, even if we end up reporting saying, yeah, well, we looked at this, uh, climate resiliency partnership grant and it didn't seem suitable, but we looked at it. Um, even that kind of stuff I think is valuable to, to, uh, mute again, Richard,

Richard P:

David and Nico are both, uh, seem to be pretty much embedded in the industry as well as Carrie and Sam. Yeah. And so they might be pretty well placed to, to identify items projects.

John V:

So I, I had another thought, which is just a little bit more about the blocking and tackling on some of this stuff. And, and in some ways, for some of these things to really get the work done, um, it may require, um, actual sort of work meetings type of thing. And I'm, and, and so one of the ways that you can do that is we can have potentially, uh, along with just the regular meetings, we're just gonna cover our agendas. We can probably just schedule workshop meetings if you want, and doesn't have enough be

anybody there. And it's just to show up and work on stuff in public. It's like, okay, we're gonna go and look at this grant. And as long as we just notice it and say what it's about, you just do it and do it on zoom and away we go.

John V:

Um, but it just gives it a way for the committee to actually continue to work and, and stay, uh, to the, to the good side of the public meeting laws. And basically, you know, you sort of have a periodic schedule. We have a regular meeting every month and maybe two weeks after that we may or may not have a workshop and you may or may not want to go depending on what the topic is, something like that. But I think, you know, it might be much more effective to have two or three of the committee members, you know, Nico, David, uh, Carrie, me, Sam, whoever, just a couple of them just say, okay, we're gonna meet for an hour on this evening and we've gotta go through this grant thing. Um, and I, cause I think like when Richard did the efficiency, main stuff, part of that was he had to do it kind of all on his own and maybe a little bit with, you know, Sam behind the scenes. So I was just trying to pro think about how to provide a useful infrastructure where we can increase have the work gets done meetings. So, um, you know, it's something to think about is that if we've got stuff that needs to get worked out, we can just like, okay, work workshop session, here's the topic, schedule it two, two weeks after our regular meeting.

Sam L:

So, so John, uh, we, we loaded this thing of about a fair.

John V:

Yep.

Sam L:

Okay. Now, and, and I don't know where we are on that, but, but now COVID is kind of, you know, the, the mass situation's gonna go away in the schools and we, we, we are coming to that point. Is that something we're willing to do and be part of at this point? Is this, have you been, have

John V:

You again, I, I, I think at this point it's unknown. I, I think I'd like to have an event. I think, as I was thinking, like I said was basically, um, probably a, a weekend or Friday, Saturday, or a, a Sunday kind of thing where you'd have a couple different speakers, a, a panel presentation or two, um, open to the, you know, open to the public focused on here's the problem, here's the solutions kind of approach. Um, and again, I, I haven't really flushed it out, but I just think that between the committee members own expertise and their network, we could put together a, a pretty good, uh, event.

Sam L:

I have an idea. Okay. I'm gonna give you ideas and leave. So that's, that's really good. I'm really good about that. Um,

John V:

The, the format ideas is I have an idea and I'm going to,



Sam L:

Well, yeah. If I get interested, especially if this funnel cakes anyway, uh, so, so what about something like an event that we already have, like the beach, the beacon race, and then at the end of that, besides maybe having something might be involved in some way, that seems to be very sustainable, right. In some ways. Okay. Uh, we, we would piggyback something that we're doing on that with all those thousands of people going through town, just an idea.

John V:

Well, I, I, I like that beach to beacon has such a logistic footprint. I think it's challenging, but I like the way you're thinking, I think in general, the idea of PI backing or, or dovetailing with, so it's already established and, and larger, um, has a lot of merit. Um, it might be worth talking to the school to see where it might fit in their calendar as well. It might be worth, um, just, you know, looking at the overall events calendar for Kate Elizabeth in the fall. I'd love to do it around back to school time, frankly. I have to see what's scheduled for them. I, I think be, to be beach to beacon is such an event and I, I'm not sure they would welcome additional activity. They mine, I don't know. It'd be worth a conversation.

Sam L:

As you said, John, it's a concept. It's more the concept than the actual event that I was thinking about. Yeah. As you say, you know, I, but I'm thinking something that's already involved, that's going that we incorporate within something instead of starting from scratch. And, and, but

John V:

The nice thing about beach to beacon is it's over early.

Sam L:

Yeah.

John V:

And so it might be one of those things, like, again, that would be worth a conversation with an organizer, you just say, Hey, we had this idea and we're wondering, would that be something that you'd be against no, no opinion or be into, and if they were into it, then we could, then we could have further discussion.

Sam M:

Maybe we could have a table there at least. I mean, that was, if that was helpful, but I mean, for what you're talking about, John, I think maybe you need you

John V:

Here though, to dove that basically they're all done by noon. Okay. So if you have some event that has interesting speakers, uh, in the high school auditorium at 1:00 PM till, you know, five in the evening and a reception after everybody's there. So again, it would be a conversation with the organizers to say, we're thinking about this, are you against it? Neutral or into it? And if they're into it, let's have another discussion.

Carrie:

Yeah. And I think maybe a question is who we're trying to target. Yeah. Because the beach beach weekend is kind of, I mean, obviously a lot of people from Cape Elizabeth run, but there's also people from other towns as well. And if we're just trying to target people from Cape Elizabeth, we might be better off with a, something on like a Saturday in the fall or, or, you know

John V:

Yeah.

Carrie:

When beach to be. Can I like the idea of a big event like that, but it's, it's a big event, you know, it's, it's like, I mean, the first time I ran it, I decided not to run it for several years because it was just like such a big fit, you know, just getting back to my car to be an hour. And that was before I lived in Cape. Um, but, um,

John V:

Well I grew up right next to the beta breakers.

Carrie:

It's just a lot, it's, it's just a lot. Um, so just, if we were trying to focus on people in Cape Elizabeth, we might pick something a little bit more low key. Um, but,

John V:

Okay. So let's just put on that, on the agenda, a, an outreach, like a fair, something like that, as you wanna, you're putting goals together now, right. Again, when I'm saying affair, by the way, my thought is one, that's much more information focused than vendor focused. For example, I really don't have an interest in being a vendor type affair. I don't think that provides a lot of value.

Carrie:

Well, part of me wonders, like we, there are people who are putting information out there, right? Who, who as part of their job. So like efficiency man has information on heat pumps and insulation and all that kind of stuff. And the, um, consumer advocate, you know, we found they had some information on community solar and competitive suppliers and things like that. And so maybe what we need to do is just help people access that information.

John V:

I think, I think, I think there's a lot of very detailed, granular information out there. I think there's very little cohesive, comprehensive overview information saying here's where we, you know, here's where we were and here's where we are. And here's why these things make sense for a lot of people today. I, I, I don't think there's that in that style of information actually, isn't that available if you've, if you've gone through the maze and determined oh yeah. Heat bumps. I, I like that. Here's why, yeah. Then it's then it's available. Yeah.

Carrie:

I guess the kind of information that's maybe not very clear cause, um, is, so you are, um, you're designing a new house or you're putting an addition on your house in Cape Elizabeth and you're like,

what kind of heat should I put in my house? Or I have to replace my boiler. What should I do? Um, it may not be, and it estate has this huge policy goal that everyone's gonna switch to heat pumps or, um, ground, you know, air source, heat pumps, or ground source, heat pumps. They don't want you replacing your oil boiler or your gas boiler or your propane boiler with another one. They want you to put any heat pumps, but I'm not sure there's anywhere that tells people that. I mean, I mean, they've done a really good job of publicizing heat pumps in Maine as a good thing. And I hear a lot of people talking about how they wanna get heat pumps, um, but maybe not sure why. Um, so that could be a place.

John V:

So yeah, I, I, I think that that, that overview of the landscape type of approach is really the one that I think will be beneficial myself, cuz most people are starting from zero, not people on this committee, but most citizens in my, the target audience in this town is starting from a, uh, a pretty early stop spot. And we, this is the survey course. Okay.

Richard P:

Yeah. Some of the stuff we might consider, um, having, uh, on a website, you know, um, good point stuff that's local to the Cape mean, you know, like testimonials of people that are put in heat pumps in the Cape and how much they've actually saved or how much it costs and stuff like that. I mean, you know, some of this stuff that, you know, people, you know, what, they, it may not be interesting to them until they actually have to do it. And right now the knee jerk reaction and everything you're having to do is go to the website and having something that's, you know, local, uh, that's that's specific of this geographic location is something that is, that is missing. Cause lots of times you don't know. Well, you know, given the, given the degree days in Cape Elizabeth, what the pay what's the payback time versus what it is in, in the county, you know,

John V:

That's

Carrie:

True. Yeah. Cause, cause, cause we are, you know, we are, we do have fairly warm weather for Maine.

John V:

Um, one of the, um, reasons that work with the library is that provide that built in it's like the, the community solar presentation, I still get people being referred to. That was helpful. So

Sam M:

We shouldn't forget that there are, um, others in town. I mean, you know, horizon homes I think is based company. They do home energy renovation, you know, home and renovation, but you know, around like the, you know, the energy and insulation piece, of course the vision is a, is a town C as well. And they're editors too. I'm sure that we don't even know about Sam Litman Corp is doing great solar work out there. Um, so

Carrie:

Yeah. Yeah. Well that's a good point in horizon was great. They, they did the energy audit on my house in Portland a long time ago, but I reduced my energies like by half and it was, it actually worked out, like they said, it was really good.

John V:

I, I just use them for my house and then using their, they refer me to a window replacement person who's coming soon. So, but yeah, no, but that overview of cuz I think that, you know, that, that residential overview piece I think is really huge for people because it's very particular to our current climate and the housing stock we've got here. Um, and then sort of like I remember seeing, uh, before, like this is sort of, here's a, a list of projects by payback in terms of like, so if, if your property is suitable for these things, the payback period is between X and Y and you could just sort of rank 'em like so easily, you know, the first thing you

Carrie:

Do yeah. Efficiency made, I think has a really cool calculator on their website or at least they did a few years ago. Um, so we could,

John V:

I, I think they've got a lot of good information, again, a lot of it's so granular the over and or so basic that middle ground survey course stuff I think is I haven't found it yet, but some of the things not there, but it's not E I haven't, it's not easily easy to find, But they're definitely someone I'd love to get people down here to, you know, talk to present, engage. I mean, we've got a lot of older housing stock in this, you know, particularly in the center of town, you know, Elizabeth Park is all ni forties houses. My, my neighborhoods, all 1960s houses, these were all built to, you know, our originally built to our eight standards, I think. Um, and not many of them have, haven't been upgraded, you know, I keep seeing oil trucks on my street all the time. So

Sam M:

I think that's a good goal for sure. To, to add. Yeah.

John V:

Let's figure out something to do for an energy fair. We could, you know, we, if we had to end up, if we end up scaling it back to, you know, two speakers and panel discussion, that's fine. If we do more than that. Great. But I think we could, I think we can still, I think we can, um, it's a good goal to work for. So again, goal being informational energy slash climate fair presentations and town council on a climate plan, solving the communication problem and documenting that. So future committees can follow up our foot's steps, um, proactively seek funding opportunities, um, for related energy and climate, uh, work, um, and continue to support the existing projects. Does that work cause that way, this is what we'll report against in the future meetings, basically. What are we doing on those topics? Does that make sense?

Speaker 8:

Sure. Yeah.

John V:

Okay.

Sam M:

Yeah, I think that's good. And it gives us, gives something, something to measure your progress again, having goals. Right? So, um, that seems comprehensive

John V:

Well, as I was pushing the town council and I'll, I'll try do this is, is if, if our goal is to say that we're gonna keep doing something or, or periodically do something, we should basically say, well, how often into what standard are we doing it? Cause otherwise it's not a goal. It's like my goal is to maintain breathing. It's not really a goal it's um, so if you know, it, it, it, so I, you know, periodically, which basically if we're periodically looking for funding opportunities, what that means is every month we're gonna go around the table and see if anyone's found anything and it's worth pursuing. So we're actually doing it on a monthly basis, which is, is, you know, legit kind of goal. So cause that has that periodicity to it that says, well, actually how frequently we'll look at it. Okay. Um, on the guidance memo right now, I've just sort of jet that, uh, because I don't think it'll be effective.

John V:

I'm gonna go talk to people to solve this, uh, blocking and tackling on the contracting and, and procurement issue. I think we're gonna tell 'em what our goals are. And, um, I, I plan to send the, um, uh, some other committees who just send the, uh, notes and agenda, uh, minutes to who the chairman of the town council, not to all the town councilors, unless they want them. And then I will. But that, that apparently was quite effective. That's what the planning board does for example, on a regular basis. It's the only committee that does that. I was talking to Jamie Garvin a little bit about how other committees communicate and nobody else bothers to send them any of, and the town council doesn't ask for anything. So in the future, we will be sending our agenda and minutes to the town council. Um, and if there's other things we feel like we need to report on in a written format, we'll do that. Like I said, periodically, that will be an action item coming out of our meetings. And one of us will write something up and we'll approve it to send along with the minutes to the, the chairman and or all of the council. Does that make sense? That's all I've got for now. Cause I think that's what will be effective and that's within our, our ability to control. So set up the one on ones begin sending the minutes and agenda. Um, uh, and, uh,

Richard P:

Is there some way we can send the, uh, any attachments with our meeting notes?

John V:

Yeah, we can. Sure. All right. So, so, but for example, when I have the one on one conversations, I'm gonna ask them if they want me to send along the contracts, because to me, those are the key documents. These are the contracts we signed that are unenforceable, how that happened. And you guys, you feel free to, you know, use your network to assess whether that's accurate. Matt's saying things are fine. We can't, we're concerned. We don't see evidence that is fine. The evidence that was cited would not prevent this from happening. It just means that no one decided not to perform. It's like I said, we didn't have an accident. So we dunno if we were wearing a seatbelt or not. Yeah. So

Richard P:

Feel free to, um, send my review of the EV contracts too.

John V:

Um, I, I think I will send that as a second attachment after they've had to sit for a while, but yeah, I think I've first done the actual contracts. And then I'll probably say, you know, we, this was part of our, our meeting materials. You should probably take a look at this too. Yep. You know, so, okay. So that's, that's the approach I'm gonna take on the town council is, um, and, and, uh, it's probably worth, and then we should, this might be worth adding to the goals basically is maybe I'll take it out myself is to essentially write up a quarterly status report on goals because the goals we've got are workable and we should be talking about it every month. And we can then summarize that into a quarterly report that we'll go to everybody. And I'm happy put my hand up as long as we've got meeting minutes, um, I can happily do the quarterly report piece make sense.

Sam M:

I'm sure that would be a valuable, you know, tool as far as, you know, more deeply engaged the town council and kinda let them know what's going on so we can, you know,

John V:

But, but again, I, I, I, I think that's, again, what I'm trying to do also is I'll think of my own hand up to say, I'll try it. If it looks like it's pretty doable, particularly if we've got, you know, minutes that are, you know, um, our minutes systems is, is working great then, um, writing up the town council, uh, quarterly report should be pretty straightforward. Um, cuz it's really, uh, I can start from the bullet point in my head and back that up with what's in the minutes to fill it out. So if, if that's sustainable, that will serve as a good go by for people who come after that, yes, you can do this. It takes me, you know, an hour. And if it takes more than an hour or you know, more than an hour and a half, I may need to revisit the process. So that's the plan. Um, any we've talked about so far everyone's muted. So if you're saying something, I can't hear any of you.

Marcia W:

No, I don't have anything else.

Sam M:

Yeah. I think, I think that was great. Um, yeah. Good. Yeah. I think, I think, you know, setting to setting these goals is really important and useful, so yeah. Thanks. Thanks for, um, you know, moving that along and team that out.

John V:

Okay. So we're at the, any, any more public comment on anything Marcia that's you, I know stayed late for us. Okay. You got three minutes.

Marcia W:

Great. Thanks you guys. I'm gonna, um, say thanks again for letting me, uh, be here tonight and I'll make sure you have the concept design for your next meeting. I'll um, stay tuned when the next meeting is and um,

John V:

Send the meeting info to Nico and Carrie

Marcia W:

And I did that already. John. I did cause Dave sent me the email. So I sent that information to you, Carrie. I got it. Perfect. They're there and say great. So I'm if, if it's okay, if you want us on the agenda, I can touch base with who I, whomever and Kalin Colby from Colby engineer can be here at the next meeting. If you would like him on your agenda.

Sam M:

Just one, one note is that third week in, um, April is spring is the school vacation.

Marcia W:

Oh right.

Sam M:

So maybe Carrie will be away. I'm gonna be away.

John V:

Oh,

Marcia W:

That's right. Yep.

Sam M:

Just if we want to reschedule that we have, we can, but that's, that's a, that could be called some folks.

John V:

We, by the way, I just realized we may not be able to do zoom at the next meeting.

Marcia W:

Oh right. In person. I that's what I thought I heard. You're right, John, I forgot about that. Yep.

John V:

I, um, I, I think that's really unfortunate cuz I think it's very, very effective for, particularly for committees. Um, But uh, um, and if we could, we may see if we can do a hybrid one. Cause I'd love to give people the opportunity, even if it's jury rigged to, to, um, have to have an in person and zoom participation. Cuz I think it's, um, I think it, it really makes it a lot easier and accessible for me. And I know it does for people with kids.

Carrie:

Yeah. I agree. I, I like the zoom. Um,

John V:

So okay. Add that to my to-do list. I will write a, a note to the town council about the ability to continue hybrid meetings.

Marcia W:

Thanks again. You guys. I'll your next meeting. Bye.

John V:

All right. Okay. We're thank you. Anyone else have any more comment or given,

Richard P:

Given the conflict with school, with the school vacation next month, we're gonna change the date. Sam and Carrie. Can't be there.

Carrie:

Well, I, I actually, I can be there. Um, but

Sam M:

Yeah, I can't speak with Carrie. I, I won't be able to be there, but if I, if, if I hold it for em, then change, if not don't. Yeah.

Carrie:

But if you, if we wanna move it to the following week, that's fine too. It doesn't matter to.

John V:

So what I would say is if we get it okay. On a hybrid, let's not move the date if we don't get it. Okay. On the hybrid, let's move it a week forward. Okay.

Richard P:

Okay.

John V:

Okay. All right. I, I will follow up on the hybrid meeting possibility. I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Carrie:

I adjourn. Yeah.

John V:

Second,

Richard P:

Second.

John V:



All those in favor.

Sam M:

Right?

John V:

Great. We're gonna adjourn. Thank you everybody. I really appreciate everyone having.

Richard P:

Thanks, John.

Sam M:

John. Thank you so much. Great.