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Meeting 10/20/2022

Dave B ([00:00:03](#)):

I think we're good. All right. Yeah, so let me pull the agenda up here. But yeah, the first order of business was, um, well we can roll call for the record here. We have John, Sam, Carrie, Richard Nico,

John V ([00:00:21](#)):

Sam Milton.

Dave B ([00:00:22](#)):

Sam Milton. Correct. No one here from the public. We need approval from the previous minutes and I just wanna highlight that those go back quite a ways and it's been very difficult to, Oh, David Kane can welcome David. Sorry if there was any confusion getting here.

John V ([00:00:57](#)):

You're muted on entry, David.

Speaker 3 ([00:01:02](#)):

Yeah,

David K ([00:01:03](#)):

Sorry, I'll, I was trying to, trying to figure out the technical piece of

Dave B ([00:01:07](#)):

This <laugh>. Sorry about that. You all are. Um, so I was just saying about the minutes, So the minutes go back quite a ways cause we haven't had 'em previous meetings and uh, it's become quite a challenge to do the minutes, which is why the transcripts are so great. Uh, you know, we discuss a lot of material in a meeting, um, but not so much of it's actionable and it's just like everything everyone says is interesting and valid and, and brings a lot to the meeting. But it's really, it's a challenge.

John V ([00:01:43](#)):

I, I, I would suggest for the purposes of the minutes, if we're going to keep using transcripts, which I think we can, you can, you can just do the very basic minutes, which is anything we vote on, attendance, any emotions, those kind of things. Anything, anything, anything we vote on. And

Carrie G ([00:02:05](#)):

I might just say, put the agenda and just say discussion, <laugh> discussion was held on these items. And then if we vote on something, record that. And that might, and maybe if there's follow up items that people are going to do that would be helpful to call out. So, but,

Dave B ([00:02:26](#)):

So I think that's a great idea. And you know, the transcripts are so great because you can just go through and search if there was something you wanted to reflect back on. Uh, the transcripts are great and so it's

Speaker 3 ([00:02:38](#)):

On me.

Dave B ([00:02:39](#)):

Let's make that, that will be the plan going forward. Yeah, it's on me. Um, it's

Speaker 3 ([00:02:44](#)):

On

Dave B ([00:02:44](#)):

Me. So if you wanna approve the previous minutes, I'm not so familiar with all the terminology here. That being the chair here for the, on the chair,

John V ([00:02:54](#)):

I think the first item was actually to elect a new

Dave B ([00:02:56](#)):

Chair. Yeah. So, Yep. So I dunno if we would do that minutes first or that, but either way. So elect new chair, Sam Melton.

Sam M ([00:03:05](#)):

Well, hey, anybody else want to be the chair? I just wanna put it out there. Just give people a moment to consider their options. <laugh>. Well,

Carrie G ([00:03:14](#)):

I started not to be on the committee after this year, so I'm, I'm out.

Sam M ([00:03:20](#)):

I should carry one last tour for old time sake. No,

Carrie G ([00:03:24](#)):

No, thanks

Sam M ([00:03:24](#)):

<laugh>. Well, you are needed, but that's okay.

Niko ([00:03:29](#)):

Dfo we have to approve her departure or can we keep her on?

Sam M ([00:03:33](#)):

Yes, we can. We can not accept her. Yeah, I was <laugh>.

John V ([00:03:39](#)):

No, it's time limited. The term expires.

Sam M ([00:03:43](#)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Yeah. Um, Nico, David, you guys are Richard clamoring to take on the, um, the chair, the chairmanship, just to have fun with that. I can tell you what I can, Well, John, John, you can maybe shed some lighting too also in, in terms of what, how, how you've, uh, thought about the, the chair role. But, you know, the first, you know, I guess couple years when I was doing it, um, I kind of clumsily, you know, figured out eventually kind of how to, you know, make meetings, go in terms the parliamentary procedure had some carry. I definitely need you to keep, you know, to keep, you know, to make sure we're all doing that properly, among other things. Um, and as really kind of the, the hardest part, <laugh> was just making sure that the agenda was, um, posted for the town, um, to allow us to meet basically.

Sam M ([00:04:33](#)):

Um, and it was really just a function of, you know, I, you know, scheduling it. Yeah. And we one week out to submit it, you know, was kind of like, you know, the task, um, which was for some reason the most difficult. But other than that, it's not really hard. John, you took on kinda, you know, more of a, an active role in terms of really engaging with the town governance, you know, as a part of the chair. Or maybe you just did that on your own and you happened to be chair at the time.

John V ([00:05:00](#)):

It was my hope to try and make committee, this committee and all committees more effective by trying to standardize some things. And I don't think I was, I think I moved some things forward, but overall was not successful. So, um, I think the idea of recording every single meeting and using automated transcripts should be the standard everywhere. I think that, uh, the idea that we don't have a representative from the town who checks in ever is terrible. Um, I, I, so, um,

Carrie G ([00:05:31](#)):

I think this, I mean, this is not about the chair, but part of the reason I think I decided not to continue on the committee is I think we've really struggled because we don't have any kind of mandate about what to do. I mean, you put together a group of people and you tell them to work on energy things, is basically what our instructions are. And that might have, I mean, it's been four years now and we

haven't, it seemed like we've, we've had even less interaction with the town, um, in terms of what, what to do. And so I, well, I, I think that, that we have all these really, I think we have a really great group of people, and including the people who are here now, and the people who have been here in the past. And, um, it'll be nice to be harnessing everyone's expertise in a more purposeful way.

Carrie G ([00:06:26](#)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Um, and I think that would make the job of being chair easier too, because we're constantly trying to figure out what it is we're supposed to be doing. We're like, Yeah, we have a landfill. Yeah, let's put a solar project on it. That seems like a good idea. Who's gonna argue with that? Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. But it's, you know, it's, it's, it, we could be a much more effective committee if we were, you know, really if the town had a, had some kind of climate goal that we were working towards. Um, you could imagine us like picking away at things, um, in a more organized way. But we're, we're always like wondering, well, do they wanna just save money or do they wanna save carbon or do they care about carbon? Has anyone thought about carbon or,

Niko ([00:07:07](#)):

You know, Carrie, I'm, I'm, you know, being relatively new to this group, um, especially because, you know, the meetings are fairly far, uh, few and far between. I'm wondering if you have any take on that. Like, if there, Every time I do this, three times a day, I drive by to South Portland, electrify everything, signs that are everywhere. And as part of preparing for this meeting, I, um, was doing a little bit of research on what Portland and South Portland did to build solar on their landfills. They worked together on that and been very successful and they're saving a lot of money. Um, what I, you know, I'm new to Cape, like, what, what's the hold up? Is it just simply a small number of people that don't follow these issues very closely that are in elected office? Is it, you know, how do we get to a point where we're on the agenda literally and figuratively of, you know, people that run the show here to get a little more traction? Do you guys have any sense of

Carrie G ([00:08:01](#)):

That? I, I don't, I don't know. I I always sort of chalked it up to the town council is not maybe people who care about these things as much. And, but you know, when we met with them about the solar project, and it's slightly, it's different people cause they've had some turnover, but it seemed like people really did care about this stuff. They were like legitimately excited about it. And, um, so I don't, I mean, Portland and South Portland are so much bigger and they have, like, we had, uh, I always forget his name, but the, the guy in from, from Portland who's, Yeah, Troy, Troy Moon. Yeah. He came and he spoke with us about all the things that they had done and he's been working on it for a long time. So that's part of it is they've been working on it for a long time and they have the resources to have like him. And then there's a woman in South Portland who's leading all these things, who's very good. And, um, but, but still someone had to decide to hire those people and put them in those roles.

John V ([00:09:03](#)):

I, I met Alma sustainability director. She lives right here in Cape.

Carrie G ([00:09:07](#)):

Oh, really? Well, well, I mean, and Falmouth is obviously a bigger town, but they're like, they're within striking distance of Cap Elizabeth, um, more so than Portland.

Richard ([00:09:21](#)):

But, you know, the, the workshop, um, about the, the solar thing and, and Encore, you know, there is a lot of interest on the town council for it. Um, and I think one of the things that we need, you know, um, in general is we need somebody from the town council to be our conduit. We need to identify someone to, um, you know, be our, be our constant contact. And then that person, if that person is informed, we'll get information both ways. But also that'll, uh, probably it'll, it'll more things about energy are more AP to get on the Town Council's agenda. And uh, you know, as one of the, the things I sent out for, you know, for how we move forward on this, uh, solar field, one of the things I put in there is that they need to establish a contact. Because if we're gonna, can't get things done by just having one meeting and one interface a month, you've gotta have more of a constant dialogue with the town council or someone on town council so they can give us direction.

John V ([00:10:24](#)):

And also once the project gets started, you've gotta be able to meet in smaller committees to do the work and just a more frequent basis. It's like, and so, but the thing I will say is currently the Town Council bandwidth has been dominated by two issues. Affordable housing in schools and getting bandwidth for anything else has been pretty much impossible. Um, understandably so. But, you know, whoever decides to be chair, I would, I would be worth, I'm gonna just later I'm gonna send the draft around as it exists of what was originally an interim report. I still think most of it's still relatively accurate, but that would be worth finishing up to do as an annual report cuz it contained a number of recommendations, uh, that I've shared before about how to make committees more effective. And that would be something that if they wanna go forward and have it be effective, those are the things they need to do. It has to do with technology, it has to do with a, a direct representative. And it has to do with, you know, a number of things that we've, we've talked about before and I started to write up. I'm happy to pass that along more than happy. Like, here, here's my rough draft, take it from here. Um, and and same thing in terms of just trying to automate the process and increase participation. Um, so

Richard ([00:11:38](#)):

Along those lines, I think that, you know, also, um, I think there ought to be, um, someone on from this committee that's the, that's the conduit and contact with the town council and that doesn't necessarily have to be the chairperson.

John V ([00:11:52](#)):

Yep. I agree with that. Any,

Richard ([00:11:54](#)):

Any member. Um, because, you know, for the chairperson to do all the other things that's going on, I think that there, there needs to be a, uh, a separate person who, who maintain dialogue with the town council person. And I think just by having a dialogue and staying in contact and letting 'em know what we're doing and asking them questions. Cause there's gonna be questions that go through this, uh, you know, resurrection of the solar field issues. There's gonna be a lot of questions. And if we wait and just have those questions once a month, we're gonna be another year before we have, uh, an agreement with uh, um, proceeding with Solar Field.

Niko ([00:12:29](#)):

Um, uh, somebody, Carrie maybe you mentioned having Troy over to do a presentation at some point in the past. You know, I I mean I, John I take your point that it's a, you know, small town, two really big issues are in play that are getting a lot of press, a lot of attention. You know, I, I'd be hopeful that, you know, eventually that will change and that these issues don't need to take up a lot of time. And if you can, you know, I think it's really compelling to have somebody like Julie and South Portland or Troy come over. They, they've done landfill projects, they started saving money on day one. There's gonna be, you know, IRA incentives that will add on top of that. I mean, that's an easy story. And if you've talked to, you know, I I think we can, we can help move the process forward. I think it could be just an effective way to get a little bit of traction if you have somebody do a 10 or 15 minute presentation and put some numbers in front of them and, you know, indicate how they started saving money on day one. You know, that doesn't need to be an ongoing thing, but,

John V ([00:13:38](#)):

So by, by by way of just trying to convince someone to step forward for chairman, the thing that I've learned in terms about being effective as well is the projects that we recommend to the town actually have to come with a consultant who's gonna run the project. Cuz they actually don't have expertise in the area of these energy projects that we've been recommending. Whether that's a climate plan, whether that's the EV chargers, whether that was the solar field, we'd be better. And if you look at the projects to get executed successfully, like what the planning department does is they're constantly bringing in consultants to run their projects. And that's part of the budget. And there's room in what we're doing to be able to bear those costs. And those, that, that's what I would say in terms of how to make what we've been doing more effective is to think about this as it's not just the project, we can vet that, but also finding who could run this for the town. And the really, that's the beginning point for things going forward. And I think there's room to do that and the council would appreciate that because it gives them a pathway for success. And someone who can really is on staff being paid by the town as a consultant to dot the i's cross the T's and make the project happen.

Speaker 4 ([00:14:46](#)):

Well, especially when, you know, that person's position will be paid for. Yeah. In a matter of a year or two with the right, with the very low hanging fruit that exist all over town.

John V ([00:14:57](#)):

I, I would encourage someone happily to, you know, step forward for chairman to try to pursue that model.

Speaker 4 ([00:15:03](#)):

I mean I found the, the irony of of, of sitting there in that room with the town council, the other, you know, the other week and he, the ra the window was wide open, the room was boiling hot and they had the fir they had the, they had the oil for, you know, some like, you know, who knows how old that radiator just pumping out heat with the window wide open. It was just like, and here we are talking about solar field, it's like, let's start with the easy stuff. Like let's put heat pumps in the, in the town hall. Like, like, or all the town facilities like tomorrow. You know, like it was just kind of crazy to me. Um, and that's, yeah, precisely John. I mean I think, I think we do need somebody who can kind of, um, you know, we're a great consultative body. We have lots of great local political knowledge and, and technical knowledge and but to have somebody who can kind of just move these things forward and, and, and, and be that, that interface between the two bodies, that I guess it seems to me listening is, is the piece

that's missing here. Cause there's, seems like there's willingness on the town council and there's a lot of enthusiasm here and we just need to kind of link 'em up. So I, I totally agree.

Dave B ([00:16:19](#)):

So

Sam M ([00:16:24](#)):

Yeah. David, I'm curious, you know, as kind of the, you know, part of the town administration and what your thoughts are, if it would be useful for these projects that we recommend to the town to have somebody identified who can actually carry the ball, you know, and uh, you know, and finish finish across the finish line, um, as opposed to having it. Cause I'm guessing it just kind of, you know, goes up to Matt, you know, you're, you're kind of, you know, boss, right? And it just kind of gets on his pile on his desk and it kind of gets stuck there. Right?

Dave B ([00:16:53](#)):

Well, I don't really think there really, there has been many projects like that. I mean, um, I think there's a lot of talk about projects, but there really hasn't there. I mean, Encore was supposed to do the project. They were on a contract, they didn't do it. If anything, we need better contracts to enforce people to do what they're signing up for for like the EB charger. And then in terms of climate and whatnot, I don't think there is any clear message from the town council on whether they're looking to what their climate goals are. Is it to make money or save money? Is it to be green? You know, there is this, like I asked mad about the EB charger rate and he doesn't know what really anyone's trying to do. Are they trying to make money on that? Was it just to, you know, reduce our carbon footprint? So I, yeah, you absolutely need someone to run the, like, you know, these bigger projects because there's no expertise on, you know, anything like that. But I just don't feel like there really are many projects that we are even talking about that even, um, require that it's really people aren't doing the contract.

John V ([00:18:03](#)):

My my point with this, any significant contract that's gonna come outta the energy committee is gonna need someone to run it. If we're saying, okay, we wanna do a group heat pump buying program, which sort of has been mentioned before and things we wanna do an oil, uh, again, we, we need some, like my impression is the town's plate, particularly on the facilities and, and MAT side, it's full mm-hmm. <affirmative>, it's full. And these projects have very specific expertise that related to energy and climate that is needed. And so that's what I'm saying the model should be, if we're gonna do something, it's gonna include the consultant to run the project through to completion. So, you know, learn that on the EV chargers and the solar field. Had we had, we had consultants in place to run those, we would add a much better result and they would, those consultants would've paid for themselves many times over.

Speaker 4 ([00:18:53](#)):

Has there been a, a climate, any attempt at a climate plan on the part of, of this committee in, in prior years? Or is there sort of a framework for the town or?

John V ([00:19:05](#)):

So there was a start, my recollection is we, we talked to Julie from South Portland and we started to get some, we talked about getting a shared resource of a part-time person to work on some of the climate stuff and beginning to do the early parts of the climate plan, which is the outreach piece and sort of

laying the groundwork to do the outreach piece. That was what we talked about getting a part-time person shared with GP cogs to do. And then there was less interest in that, I think on the town council side with the recent election and changeover. And they were, they never determined a climate goal. That person never materialized. And there we stand.

Richard ([00:19:49](#)):

Let me, let me give, let me give Nico and, and Dave, uh, a little bit of background. You know, when the, when the energy committee was originally formed, uh, the, the, the hot button issue is get something, get a, so get, uh, get a solar field on the landfill. And that's what we geared to do. And that's where 90, 95% of our time was spent. Um, the EV chargers that popped up when, uh, Efficiency Main, um, offered some rebates. And so we jumped on that to get, to get those in. But as we are almost vast, vast majority of our time was just spent on, on, uh, the, the solar field and some on the EV chargers. And then there were discussions about what next. And we've been foundering, we've been foundering about what next, Ever since we, we kicked off the e we thought we had a, we thought we were done at the solar, uh, field project when we, uh, gave the recommendation to the town. And so we've been spinning our wheels basically ever since to try and find direction for the committee and to give projects other projects that a fair assessment.

John V ([00:20:58](#)):

I think that's true. I think of that a few things did bubble up along the way, some of which are gone now. That was the, the light, the lighting conversion in buying the polls and things like that, that they,

Richard ([00:21:09](#)):

We weren't involved with that though. Yeah. We, we didn't have any input in that. That wasn't,

Carrie G ([00:21:13](#)):

Well we, we, that was one of the things we considered doing, but then we realized the town was already doing it.

John V ([00:21:18](#)):

Yeah. And then those then with a couple of things, other things that were ones that I put on the goal list this year, um, early on, which was an informational piece and, and basically a plus, you know, cost and benefits of doing a climate plan. Um, and then basically, you know, we've had some, you know, administrative hiccups that I've had some other commitments. So I have not pushed those forward. Um,

Carrie G ([00:21:41](#)):

I think, um, Dave, when we, when we started the committee there had, so the, when we all started four years ago, there was the first time there was a, um, a permanent committee on energy, but there had been I think two, I forget what they're called, ad hoc committees previously. And one of them had made a big report, which had some recommendations in it. And their biggest recommendation was to do solar thermal for the pool, I think. And they had said, Well, we can't do, um, solar for the landfills is, is a good idea, but it's really complicated because at that time there was no virtual net metering. So you would've had to build a, some kind of, uh, trans, not a transmission line, but you'd have to connect physic, physically interconnect the, um, the solar project at the landfill with the towns meter at the schools. And that was gonna be expensive cuz it involved going through some wetlands and things like that. But then

that barrier was gone. So we kind of, we got really excited about the landfill project and went, went after that. Um mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Niko (00:23:01):

Yeah, you know, you know, you had, somebody had asked about, you know, a plan and I, I guess in my experience when I was with epa, I worked with cities a bit on climate planning and a lot of jurisdictions could take years and tens of thousands of dollars to write up a plan when, you know, you could be doing the kinds of things specific one-off projects that actually gets some greenhouse gas reductions like the town has been doing. But it does seem like a, at least a step of, if it's not a, you know, a 20 page detailed plan, maybe some kind of climate goal, some sort of target so that there is, you know, an orienting framework, um, that these specific one off projects can fall under and sort of get us towards.

Carrie G (00:23:49):

I think that would really help because

Niko (00:23:51):

Achieving whatever goal, whatever specific target it is, and then maybe a consultant could do a, you know, just look at the town's footprint and say, here are some, you know, cost effective actions. So you limit the amount of, you know, time and expense of this complicated planning, but you got a orienting goal.

Carrie G (00:24:15):

I think that's, I think that's what we, we need, we need, because that's one of our challenges has been just never knowing if reducing carbon is actually a goal. And so like when we did the landfill project, the whole discussion of should we keep the Rex or not keep the rex and then we explained what it meant and blah, blah, blah, blah. But if you knew that there was a goal and you wanted to say, reduce the town's emissions by this much in 10 years, you could, it would be, it would be pretty easy to figure out what those actions are. Um, so I agree, like you can do things without a plan, but it, it's been frustrating. I think

John V (00:24:57):

I would suggest it would be worthwhile to consider between now in October and essentially the spring cuz the, it's gonna be an election in new town counselors or, or maybe the same town council, but a newly board will go through a goal setting process. They did not have any climate goals. They wanted to have a climate goal, but before they get there, it might be worthwhile to actually suggest some climate goals to the town to consider as the town's climate goals.

Niko (00:25:30):

<laugh>, I just wanna,

Dave B (00:25:33):

I was just gonna add to that, John, I, I think we, they need also like, suggestions on what that actually looks like. So like, the school has an environmental responsibility goal and I can tell you there's zero that's being done to meet that other than, um, I've decided to switch to green chemicals for cleaning. So it sounds, some climate stuff's just becoming a buzzword. I almost feel like sustainability and

environmental responsibility and carbon footprint, I think they need to know like what we can actually do.

John V ([00:26:04](#)):

Cause to, to me, I I, you know, I haven't looked extensively, but there's, there's grants and stuff out there specifically for planning. We, that's exactly the kind of stuff that we should be. Goal number one is, you know, get a grant for, for climate planning and go, you know, it's like something like that is what I would

Carrie G ([00:26:23](#)):

Yeah, I think, I think Dave, that's a good point about coming up with examples of what that means. Cause I think if you had a goal, like the town wants to reduce it's carbon emissions to, um, you know, from electric, it wants to have zero emissions from its electrical usage. And I mean, you could, you could accomplish that goal today by spending some money. Like that's all you have to do is by, by rec. So there's, there's different levels and then there's, you know, can we eliminate all the emissions from our school buses? And you know, we

John V ([00:26:55](#)):

Could Aren't you going for the electric school bus, David?

Dave B ([00:26:58](#)):

Yeah, they're gonna go for the electric school bus.

John V ([00:27:00](#)):

See you're doing that for the plan.

Dave B ([00:27:03](#)):

But that was, that was, so that was hand handed to us. They sent emails out to schools about it. And uh, so I feel like, you know, Marcy on the school side is willing to go, She's great for doing grants if it's presented to her. She's not, doesn't have the time to look for things. And I don't even know who would write the grant on the town side. Um, you know, the finance person's out right now. Um, so there's a little bit of a void.

Niko ([00:27:32](#)):

I wasn't aware of that, that that's, that's exciting. So the town, uh, the schools are putting in a proposal.

John V ([00:27:41](#)):

It's a DPA grant in Nico.

Niko ([00:27:43](#)):

Yeah. No, I didn't know, I know about that. I hadn't realized that, uh, the schools were, that I

John V ([00:27:49](#)):

Was excited and I was saying they should consult with you,

Niko ([00:27:52](#)):

<laugh>, <laugh>. Um, I mean I know I the people that are running that grant program, so I'll reach, um,

John V ([00:28:03](#)):

Well, I was gonna say at least you should read their application before they submit it.

Niko ([00:28:09](#)):

Is that, Yeah. Is there anything to do to make a contribution to that? Or is that already

Dave B ([00:28:13](#)):

Baked? I can, uh, check in while the business person's out tomorrow who's doing that grant and I can get an update on Monday and shoot it over to the group.

Niko ([00:28:21](#)):

Yeah, I think that'll be that, that'll be fantastic.

John V ([00:28:24](#)):

So Sam, I don't know if anyone's stepping up to be chairman

Sam M ([00:28:29](#)):

<laugh>. I don't dunno. I don't, I don't hear it. Yeah, I mean I would be, would be happy to pick it back up if, um,

Speaker 4 ([00:28:36](#)):

Is a co is a co-chair like Sam, I, you know, do co-chairs work in, in the past. Have you tried that

Sam M ([00:28:44](#)):

Approach? Well, sort of. Well, John and I were kind of co-chairs. Yeah,

Speaker 4 ([00:28:47](#)):

Right, right, of course. Yeah.

Sam M ([00:28:48](#)):

But, you know, I don't think, we didn't really try to do co-chairing. Um, you know, but there's probably a good division of labor that we could do. Like when, you know, somebody could make sure that the minutes could get posted, you know, every, you know, every month and the other person could be, you know, making sure other things are happening. Um, and, uh, yeah. Are are you volunteering to be a co-chair?

Speaker 4 ([00:29:11](#)):

Uh, no, not necessarily asking me. Asking the leading question.

Sam M ([00:29:17](#)):

Okay. Well you, we can, I mean, there's a coach or format I think that can be done informally. Um, but I think we needed a formal, you know, chair at least. And, um, yeah, I'd be happy to, to volunteer to be that, uh, be that person.

John V ([00:29:38](#)):

I nominate Sam Milton for chair, New chair.

Sam M ([00:29:42](#)):

Chair. Second it

Niko ([00:29:45](#)):

Third. That's great.

Sam M ([00:29:47](#)):

Right. So do it all in favor? Yes.

John V ([00:29:51](#)):

Yes. Okay. Nico, you're not on, Everyone else was signaling visually and you were not on camera, so, so the recorded vote is, um, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, if assuming Sam voted for himself at six.

Sam M ([00:30:06](#)):

Yes. Okay. No abstentions. That's good. Right? No Nas <laugh>.

John V ([00:30:13](#)):

All right. Okay. You, you're charged. Sam, you have an

Sam M ([00:30:15](#)):

Agenda. All right. Let's do this meet call to, um, let's do this <laugh>. So, I mean, I think, I think this is like a really good, you know, start. I mean, it's good to kind, you know, to step back like we did and go think about, all right, you know, what do, what do we want to do? And um, again, kind of our mandate has never been, has never really been clear. Um, so John, I think that's a great idea. You know, getting in front of the next, you know, council, um, you know, when, you know when, when they're appointed or before they're appointed and just say, Hey, you know, these are some things that we wanted, that we, that we need, you know, we need you to support us on. And, and finding a champion too, um, on the, on the town council level, I think would be,

John V ([00:30:52](#)):

I will send you my draft report, Sam, so you can take a look.

Sam M ([00:30:56](#)):

That sounds great. Um, thank you. I look forward to that. Why don't you copy

John V ([00:31:00](#)):

Everybody? Sure. I can send it to everybody. It's got one section I never wrote and a bunch of it needs to get cut down and updated. Cause it was basically narrative supporting the recommendations. Mm-hmm.

Sam M ([00:31:09](#)):

<affirmative>.

John V ([00:31:10](#)):

Yeah. But you've heard the recommendations, so

Sam M ([00:31:12](#)):

Yeah, no, I think it's good. I like, I like your, um, uh, your initiative, you know, John of, you know, establishing more of a paper trail for this kind of thing too, which is, which is good. Um, I may, I may not volunteer to to write an annual report, you know, every, every year. But I think it'd be good to have something like that, um, done. And maybe this is when a co-chair sort of thing or a committee or something, you know, something you could, you know, could, could help out. Um,

John V ([00:31:40](#)):

So, but

Sam M ([00:31:41](#)):

Um, yeah,

John V ([00:31:41](#)):

Just so you know, my thinking as I'm handing this off, part of the, part of the object of writing the goals up front is that actually structures how you're gonna end up doing your annual report. Cuz you're basically reporting against goals and what happened. And so, but there was a lot on the solar side that illuminated issues mm-hmm. <affirmative>, um, that then resulted in recommendations. So, um, but it was mostly, again, structured around the goal setting piece that, that provided a structure. So it's not from a blank sheet, it starts from, that was the part of, again, did not fully succeed, but it was an attempt to put in a structure that would be durable so that you set your goals, that sets essentially what your mostly what your agendas are gonna be like and your annual reporting is gonna look like and it can evolve from it. But that was the idea was to build that structure.

Sam M ([00:32:33](#)):

Well, John, I'm I I I love that you, you had this, this, this perspective on effective governance or what could be effective governance and, you know, making kind of our own internal administration, um, be a little bit more effective.

John V ([00:32:46](#)):

So we, so I'll send that around back the end of the meeting,

Sam M ([00:32:49](#)):

So, Great. Um, on our, we have agenda item, which we have, we kind of didn't bounce around a little bit, which is, which is great, but, um, solar, uh, let's, let's, you know, get to that. Um, can we, can we pivot to that, uh, that discussion now?

John V ([00:33:06](#)):

Sure. It's kinda combined with f but Yes.

Sam M ([00:33:09](#)):

Yes, exactly. A Yeah. And B, B and F. All right, Well, the solar stuff. Um, so, so, uh, David and John Richard were at the meeting workshop, uh, last week, right. Um, and Richard, thank you so much for, for writing up kinda your, your takeaways, reframing them for a, um, you know, recommendations for the town. Um, does someone wanna give like a two minute overview for those of us who weren't at that meeting? Kind of how it went, how it went down?

Richard ([00:33:44](#)):

Well, basically the town, you know, is, uh, disappointed with Encore and they wanna get outta that. They wanna get outta that contract.

Sam M ([00:33:51](#)):

They do okay.

Richard ([00:33:53](#)):

And they're looking, uh, uh, they need, uh, some legal advice on how to get out of that contract and still retain some of the, some of the, the, the rights that, uh, and position in the, in the queues. And, um, they have also, were looking for, uh, the, uh, we discussed the different options now about, uh, the different types of, of options that are available. We don't longer have to work with, it's just a PPA like we did before, but some of the tax advantages, et cetera mm-hmm. <affirmative> are gone and the town can take advantage of it. So one of the options we wanna, we might wanna consider was to have the town build and own the field themselves. And the council was open for both of those. Uh, and I think they're looking to the energy committee to give them a recommendation on which way to proceed.

Richard ([00:34:46](#)):

Um, and, uh, uh, I think they're, they were disappointed with the quality of the contract and they wondered why there weren't, uh, milestones and how we got to this point, uh, with, with the current contract. Um, there were some discussion around that. And, um, I think the, the town is there is quite a bit of interest in dis in developing the solar field and disappointment that we haven't progressed farther than what we really are. We're basically, we're back, we're back to to, to square one. So I think there's an opportunity here for the energy community to come in and well, they expect the energy committee to, to, to, uh, you know, play a role here. And I think one of the things that, uh, was not totally clear is exactly what they want the energy committee to do. Right. And so that's why that's what prompted me to, to say that we should write, uh, what, um, um, uh, basically instructions for the energy committee and get the, and get the, the, uh, the town council to buy into those.

Richard ([00:35:50](#)):

If you look at that draft that I sent, that's what I think, uh, we should be looking for. And the first item is, is for the town council to provide a contact so that we can work with that person. Because like we've discussed previously, unless we have someone on an ongoing basis that we can discuss and get clearance on the town, uh, from the town council on some of these, some of these actions, it's just gonna stall, it's gonna drag out. And also I think that we have more of an opportunity to, to um, sustain

and develop interest in the town on the council for what the energy committee is doing. And I think that would open it up for other things as well. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. So, uh, I don't know if you all had a chance to look at that, but I think that's something that we need to agree and we need to go back to the town council probably the, the, uh, the, the, the chair of the council and get them to, to approve this and uh, and move on. But we should look at it tonight and modify it as we think necessary so that we have an have at least have our thoughts on what should, uh, our instructions be going forward for the, for the, uh, landfill solar project. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Niko ([00:37:02](#)):

Can I ask a clarifying question? Um, do you know if it's possible to main, to exit the contract while maintaining our position in the interconnection queue?

Richard ([00:37:15](#)):

No, that's what the attorney's for. Yeah.

John V ([00:37:17](#)):

So basically we, the attorney would negotiating essentially the encore reconvey the project back to the town.

Niko ([00:37:26](#)):

Yeah, okay.

John V ([00:37:28](#)):

Um,

Niko ([00:37:29](#)):

That's a big deal, right?

John V ([00:37:31](#)):

Um, it's, it's a fairly big deal. It has some value. Um, the, it it will probably save us a, you know, a year, 18 months.

Niko ([00:37:41](#)):

Yeah.

John V ([00:37:41](#)):

Which is, um, but that said, um, because of the IRA changes, there's a lot of things and also I think there's more willingness now also to revisit the project to make it potentially bigger even than it was before. Cuz when we first did it, the instruction was essentially don't touch a tree or you're gonna have, you know, tie this up for months dealing with the trails people and now we're in a different spot relative to energy costs and development around goldcrest and all kinds of things. So there's not,

Richard ([00:38:12](#)):

Yeah. And that's, and that's why one of the items is the council provides instruc just the limitation of area available for the field. Yep. And that was put in there so that the town council could say, Well, you can cut down some trees, you can, you know, make the fuel level bigger and not have to worry about, uh, infringing on some of the trails, but we're looking for the town to give us authorization to on what size we can be. The only issue with upsize,

Speaker 10 ([00:38:35](#)):

The project would be that we would, we would have to withdraw our current interconnection application and resubmit. You

John V ([00:38:42](#)):

Can't. I'm saying that's why losing it is, is a mixed, mixed thing. So,

Niko ([00:38:49](#)):

So, and that's upsize in terms of the, uh, capacity and generation as well as physical

John V ([00:38:56](#)):

Yeah.

Niko ([00:38:56](#)):

Footprint.

John V ([00:38:58](#)):

Yep. And as long as you're below two megawatts, you're still gonna be in the fast lane. So

Speaker 10 ([00:39:05](#)):

Now you will, you will get, you know, the benefit of two years, uh, of, of two years more of, of, of module technology. So you probably have, you know, 580 wat panels instead of 400 wat panels, uh, that might have inspected a year ago. So, so you will get a better, you know, DC sizing and production out of that same ac

Richard ([00:39:26](#)):

So it's the area, it's the land area that we're using. It would cause us to have Togo to, uh, lose our place in, in the line as long as we, if we're generating more with the same area or

Carrie G ([00:39:36](#)):

The interconnection, people care about the megawatts. They don't care how much land you're putting 'em on, as long as they're all connected to the same wire. They don't, they don't care. The, the, um, the town, the, the land area is, is then the issue with the, what people in town think about that. But

John V ([00:39:55](#)):

Yeah, I don't know the intricacies of, of how much you can amend your plan in terms of what you were planning and how would actually end up with, So, you know, there may be some room to amend your application as long as it's within certain parameters. I don't know.

Richard ([00:40:10](#)):

So what would the limitations you were talking about Dave? David,

Speaker 10 ([00:40:14](#)):

Uh, it would just be increasing the ac size of the system. Um, so that

Richard ([00:40:19](#)):

That would trigger the

Speaker 10 ([00:40:21](#)):

New application

Richard ([00:40:22](#)):

That would trigger the need for a new application.

Speaker 10 ([00:40:25](#)):

Yeah. If you, if you increased the size, correct.

Richard ([00:40:29](#)):

The megawatt size.

Speaker 10 ([00:40:32](#)):

Yeah, correct. The capacity, the AC sizing. Yeah. So I think it's a 900 KW system if I'm not mistaken. So if, you know, if we found that we had room to build, you know, 1.2 megawatts or something like that, then you would have to withdraw and resubmit.

John V ([00:40:49](#)):

Um, I thought it was rated at one. Was it rated at one four?

Richard ([00:40:53](#)):

I

Speaker 10 ([00:40:54](#)):

Think it was maybe one four is the DC sizing. I think it was less than a megawatt ac.

John V ([00:40:58](#)):

Okay.

Speaker 10 ([00:40:59](#)):

Yeah,

Sam M ([00:41:02](#)):

You mentioned that might be like a year and a half or year and a half, you know, delay or, So, I mean, even if we're kind, I think we we're the only, uh, system that's gonna be on, on that substation, right? Yes. So I'm,

Speaker 10 ([00:41:16](#)):

And they've not, they've not scheduled the second Portland cluster yet. So if we submitted, you know, promptly we would get into that second cluster. Um, I've got a project in the second cluster and I'm waiting for it to be scheduled <laugh> in ya.

Carrie G ([00:41:33](#)):

So the other thing, and I need to check on the policy, but they've made some changes to the policy that we would be, um, doing this project under, I think that municipalities are still allowed to go over two megawatts, but, um, they, it's when we, when we were working on this before, you could go up to five megawatts and now that would be much more difficult. I think they put a moratorium on those two to five megawatt projects, but I think municipalities might be exempt. I just don't remember. We'd have to check that. I don't know if anyone else knows, but,

Niko ([00:42:11](#)):

Well, I

Carrie G ([00:42:12](#)):

I don't think we'd get that big. No. But

Niko ([00:42:15](#)):

Yeah, the, the South Portland project is 3.6 on their landfill. That's, that's as of, uh, recently they

Carrie G ([00:42:23](#)):

Expanded, but they, if they just, it was basically what they said cuz the project was so popular they had sort of this gold rush and the way they walked it back was they said if you're two to five megawatts, you have to be meeting all these milestones. And at this point we would be after the milestone meeting period, but it's possible that municipalities were exempt from that over two megawatt rule. I, I remember something about municipalities having more leniency, but I don't remember what it was

John V ([00:42:56](#)):

Specific to Richard's ask about going back to the town council, the thing that I think you might wanna do on a structural basis, Richard, is I think it's really important, like you said, have a designated contact from the town council. Um, I would suggest both the town council and the energy committee have a key contact and a backup contact both so that as you get into these discussions where you've gotta go back and forth, the energy committee is saying, right, if it's about the solar project, talk to Richard or talk to David or whatever, whoever we designate, uh, as the, our representatives to support that negotiation effort, um, to the, to the town and the town's reps. So the town should do that and we should do that so they have a point of contact with us so that it's not an energy committee meeting, it's just we're gonna rely on this expertise of these one or two people that the energy committees put forward. And then if there's something that needs discussion, they'll bring it to us. Does that make sense? Cause I think that we need have that streamlined structure in place is critical to get this to resolve quickly.

Sam M ([00:44:03](#)):

Yeah, no, absolutely. I mean this, this should be a clear chain of communication, you know, between,

John V ([00:44:08](#)):

You know, does that make sense,

Sam M ([00:44:09](#)):

Richard? Expertise?

Richard ([00:44:10](#)):

Yeah, Yeah. I mean, you know, you know, this was, this was, yeah, we can add that to it, but this was basically what the town council needs to do and let the town council understand what we're planning on doing. Right. We can add that we're gonna have a contact too, and I think we should, right? We can add that to the, to the,

John V ([00:44:28](#)):

To the, I think it's great to lay out here's your responsibility, here's our responsibility, and then you can see how it works together. So, Yeah.

Sam M ([00:44:36](#)):

Yeah. So Richard, your fir your first item was to establish this, the chain of communication between, you know, us and the council. I think that's, that that, you know, is a, makes a ton of sense and you know, as you said is, is essential to, you know, to to, you know, actually move this along, um, and kind of have that, that kinda, you know, lightning speed hopefully interaction between, between, you know, the experts among us and also, you know, those who are gonna be working on this hopefully on the town side. Um, and then next one segues into the attorney, which again, we need, we need someone with legal e legal expertise. It's relevant, um, on this, we have name is for that I think. Right? Um, I think you know, Gary and Richard and, uh, maybe and John too are saying

Carrie G ([00:45:16](#)):

Richard. Richard and I ended up triangulating on the same name I think. Okay.

Sam M ([00:45:22](#)):

<laugh> Perfect.

Carrie G ([00:45:23](#)):

I can get another name too if you want. Um, I'm sure

John V ([00:45:27](#)):

I, I have a name as well, so I don't know.

Richard ([00:45:29](#)):

So let, I think we should put those names out there and just because the town councils wants 'em and I, let's give 'em to him. Yeah. The person that I contacted at Pierce Atwood, um, you know, he, his

comment was you may two things. He was concerned about conflict of interest and he checked that there's no conflict of interest with Encore. He said if you elect to go to another supplier, another vendor, there may be a conflict of interest, in which case we might have to withdraw. The other point he made was that the contract, the en or the energy expertise may not be the right attorney to do the legal stuff or contract withdrawal. And he said that, you know, so you might need a litigator or a pit bull to deal with Encore, uh, on, on relative to the contract. So I think that our recommendation to the, to the town ought to be these names plus these caveats. And the only name I know of is the one that carried I, uh, triangulate it on. So, and they don't, and he did not give my contact, did not give a name of, of a litigator, not assume it would be in Pierce Atwood. And

Carrie G ([00:46:42](#)):

So I I they've gotta have someone who could do that.

Richard ([00:46:44](#)):

Yeah, I'm sure. I mean, they litigate all

Carrie G ([00:46:45](#)):

The time. The person is Sarah Tracy, who we recommended. I I just know her, we're on the E two tech board and we, we work with her sometimes, but she's also on the, um, I don't know if she still is, but she was on the Freeport Town Council. So your chief, she knows something about towns too.

John V ([00:47:05](#)):

The, the other name I got was, um, the Bernstein Sure. Attorney David Lael.

Carrie G ([00:47:09](#)):

Oh yeah. He was the person I was gonna call to ask for another recommendation. David is, uh,

Richard ([00:47:15](#)):

So former p

John V ([00:47:17](#)):

So I actually went, I, I I, I actually went in through a litigator I knew who then referred me to the town side, who I also know and they're conflicted out cuz he, Phil Sasi, who leads their municipal group sits on, on the school board with my wife. So then I then I talked to Phil, he basically said the person who would lead that up is Dave Lael. But then yes, he would do the initial sort of intake and then you'd put the litigator person on it. And, and I've utmost confidence in, you know, whether it's Fred Lip who I know or a guy, a person from Bernstein of understanding exactly how to do that. They're very good at that kind. Yeah,

Carrie G ([00:47:51](#)):

I think David has some, um, cause he's, cause we actually work with him too in his other job at, at rap, which is the regulatory assistance project. So he sort of works there part-time and I, I, I know he has some other attorneys who work with him in the energy group. So, um, so I think that that's another good option for sure.

John V ([00:48:08](#)):

So I think those, having two names is great. So you've got, we've got Sarah and we've got David to put forward and understand also that they may be the, the, um, technical expertise, but the frontline person is likely to be a litigator.

Richard ([00:48:21](#)):

Well, I think, I think there's, there's, there's two points I think we need to make. I mean, the main, I mean, litigators, you can, anybody can sign those. I mean, those are easy to find. I mean, I think the, the key point is maybe, maybe it's tough to find a good litigator, but anyways, there's a lot of litigator around. But, uh, I think the key point is to give them energy expertise. That's what I think is the harder, harder content.

John V ([00:48:46](#)):

So

Richard ([00:48:46](#)):

If you, Carrie and John, if you'll send me the contact information with the list of people, I'll be happy to carry that on to pass that information on to the com council,

John V ([00:48:58](#)):

My point was, it was only just set an expectation because what we want is the litigator who's recommended by the energy guy saying, I can work with this person. I can back them up on the technical stuff and oversee the technical piece of this. Um, that's what you, you don't, you don't want it the other way around <laugh>.

Carrie G ([00:49:18](#)):

John, do you know David personally or do you want me to email him and tell him that

John V ([00:49:22](#)):

We're gonna I I don't know it David personally, but he was, again, he was, it was a name that you know, was to by Phil and

Carrie G ([00:49:29](#)):

I'll give him a heads up that we're sending his name in. Same with Sarah so that they know Yeah,

Dave B ([00:49:33](#)):

Yeah. He, he actually should already know Matt Sturgis followed the same trail as John going through Phil. Okay. <laugh> a, uh, Matt wasn't positive of his name, but Phil told him that there's someone at Bernstein who

Carrie G ([00:49:44](#)):

He's very hard to type his name into an email because it autocorrects <laugh>. We use him as a reference a lot for our work and every time I write it in <laugh>.

Richard ([00:49:56](#)):

All right. So, so if I understand Carrie, you're gonna contact the litigators?

Carrie G ([00:50:00](#)):

Yes, I will.

Richard ([00:50:01](#)):

Yeah. You and John are gonna give me the names and I'll pass those on to the town council.

John V ([00:50:08](#)):

Great. I'll

Richard ([00:50:08](#)):

Do that. I'll pass those on as soon, as soon as you let me know that you contacted them.

Carrie G ([00:50:12](#)):

Okay. I'm do, I'm gonna do it while we're on the call so that I don't not do it. <laugh>.

Speaker 10 ([00:50:20](#)):

Now are we trying to pull together a plan before their next, this was a workshop that we attended that they, they weren't able to take any official action at that workshop, but when is their next official meeting and, and when are we trying to,

John V ([00:50:37](#)):

Uh, I

Speaker 10 ([00:50:38](#)):

Put these records,

John V ([00:50:38](#)):

I I don't think they took official, I don't think they took official action, but I think this is still within the purview of Matt to execute as town manager. Once he gets the na once he gets the names from us.

Speaker 10 ([00:50:51](#)):

I see. Not, not

John V ([00:50:53](#)):

Having the, it didn't require council action to say, Matt, you should do this all, you know. I see. Although, you know, <laugh>, it would be a technically, you know, if they wanted to actually take a council action, that would take up the recommendation that we sent them months ago to do this.

Sam M ([00:51:12](#)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

John V ([00:51:13](#)):

But I don't think they, I think it's just gonna happen on Matt's own authority. He, he knows what he's supposed to do and it was clear in that meeting, but it doesn't require a council vote.

Sam M ([00:51:24](#)):

So he, he, he presented to the town council the workshop agenda item that, you know, they deal with the,

John V ([00:51:33](#)):

He gave a little history of that. We've gotten nowhere and they're back with this new rate and mm-hmm. <affirmative>, uh, and then Tom Merley spoke extensively. I think Richard, Richard spoke and I spoke.

Sam M ([00:51:44](#)):

Okay, great.

John V ([00:51:44](#)):

And everyone basically said you should be done with Encore. Mm-hmm.

Sam M ([00:51:48](#)):

<affirmative>. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Um, good. Alright. So Matt, Matt will have some, some, some names folks that he can, you know, you, you know, put, you know, towards that, that goal.

Richard ([00:51:59](#)):

But I'm, I'm gonna, I'm gonna copy also the, uh, the chair of the town council and I think it's very important that those people stay in this loop for it to follow through because they were, they were quite concerned about the status and the progress that has been made and how we expedite it. So that's important that they stay in the loop.

Sam M ([00:52:22](#)):

Is that, um, uh, I think the chair is Jeremy Garson, is that right? Is the current chair? Yeah, I think I would, I would think of, I would think of him as kind of, you know, maybe our champion at this point. I think, you know, you know, previously we were kinda talking with to council about, you know, what have they done around, or what town done around how, you know, climate action oriented things. Um, he, he was the one that kind of volunteered to, you know, pull together some data about what, what the town's already been done. So I think he's already,

Richard ([00:52:52](#)):

If we ask him, I mean, I dunno how busy he is. I mean, he's, if he's chair, he's got a lot of things to do. Yeah. So he may wanna have someone else be that contact.

Sam M ([00:53:00](#)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Yeah. Yeah. Sure. Which is, which is fine. Philosophically, at least he's the champion. Um, so he'll be an ally. I think.

Richard ([00:53:09](#)):

So, I think, um, can we go down the rest of these lists and see if what other, what other changes you wanna make?

Niko ([00:53:17](#)):

Yeah. Could I just add one quick thing? I do feel like per our previous conversation, having somebody that's highly credible and informed about all the, the changes that have happened recently in policy in Maine and with municipalities and, and nationally, um, certainly David Lael would fit that bill to speak, you know, about the moment. I just feel like a lot of people probably on the town council don't follow these issues. They probably think it's really niche and boutique. And I, I think it just can be powerful to have a, you know, an outside expert that's familiar with this stuff. Talk about how, you know, this is, you know, opportunity to save money. Everybody's doing this, other jurisdictions are doing this. Most jurisdictions in Maine are doing this and just convey the momentum and opportunity that's, it's not coming directly from us, but from a credible person. Well,

Richard ([00:54:02](#)):

Do we have, do we have expert, do we have that expertise already existing with Carrie and David?

Carrie G ([00:54:09](#)):

Probably we could talk about it, I think. No,

Niko ([00:54:11](#)):

I, Yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm just saying if you know somebody like David Lael comes in and is part of these conversations, I just think, you know, just since we know him, queuing him up and just, you know, talking a little bit about, uh, you know, the, the momentum and opportunity associated with these kinds of projects because you know, we're talking to somebody that doesn't deal with this stuff every day. Like most of us probably do.

Richard ([00:54:34](#)):

Well, you know, I'm just thinking that, that, um, Gary and David probably come cheap. The probably comes in

Carrie G ([00:54:42](#)):

It hard to get him to, um,

John V ([00:54:47](#)):

It depends. It'll come out of his marketing budget.

Carrie G ([00:54:49](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Cause this, this isn't gonna be a big project. Um, probably. Um, but

Sam M ([00:54:57](#)):

I guess it depends. Okay. Have we identified, kind of what the, what the bottleneck, you know, was like the bottleneck was, was, you know, on the encores encore side. You know, just not giving us what we engaging. Right? I mean, so that's no longer a bottleneck.

John V ([00:55:11](#)):

So the other thing that also happened at the workshop meeting that was worth noting, cuz I think it made an impact on people about talking about the town going and doing a, going ahead and doing the, this itself was Tom Meley basically did a back of the envelope calculation as to what he thought you could get a fixed price contract built out for today. And it was, it was ballpark saying 9 cents a kilowatt hour, it was a 10 year bond, just, you know, ballpark, you know, what it would be. And so, you know, that's Tom, that's what he says. And, but that's the number that people heard. Like, and as you know, we talked about the most recent energy contracts proposals are coming in at way above that. And again, that's before you add in some of the value of being on landfill potentially, and being, um, uh, and the value of the, uh, Rex if you decide to sell 'em.

Carrie G ([00:56:12](#)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, the one thing I would say in terms of inde, I mean in defense of the pricing increases that, that we saw in Encore is that I have heard from just about everyone that the prices really, like the cost of building these projects really has increased In David Ka you probably, you I'm sure know better than any of us. I've sort of been trying to figure out how much, but there has been a real increase in cost in the last year or so. And it seems like, um,

John V ([00:56:44](#)):

Yeah, modules

Speaker 10 ([00:56:46](#)):

Ares were twice as much as they were 18

Carrie G ([00:56:47](#)):

Months ago. Yeah. So, so I'm a little worried. Tom may have said the far in aggressive, um, bar, but, um, that's certainly something that we can,

John V ([00:56:59](#)):

He's,

Carrie G ([00:57:00](#)):

He a figure out by going to the marketplace.

John V ([00:57:02](#)):

He's, uh, buying energy assets now, so I don't know.

Carrie G ([00:57:05](#)):

Yeah. But he's not buying energy assets in Cape Elizabeth Maine on the landfill, you know, You know what I

John V ([00:57:10](#)):

Mean? He's, I do.

Carrie G ([00:57:11](#)):

Yeah. He's,

John V ([00:57:14](#)):

I'm,

Carrie G ([00:57:14](#)):

So you may just have to see what the market brings. Um, well,

John V ([00:57:18](#)):

So I'll repeat basically what I went through at the town councils for a benefit of people's, like we understand that they've come back to us with wanting for price increases and we understand that costs went up, but a bunch of other things changed the as as well. You know, the, the investment tax credit went back from 26 back up to 30. You know, there's, there's now incentives for landfill stuff that there wasn't before. Um, you know, the rec market is, is pretty firm and they are the ones who decided to wait 18 months. And so all of those things that, you know, that, you know, some things moved against them in that period, but lot other things moved for them. And then it's like they're not looking to share those economics cuz the price increases were, you know, both on the base and on the doubling, you know, and the escalator. So it was, um, after not having even told us what status the, you know, never responded to Tom's email that said, Okay, before we talked price, where are you guys? So that was some of the discussion that happened at the town council. So I understand, you know, costs are gonna be up, but, you know, another number of other things changed in our favor. And the, the, as well as the cost of what we're offsetting is way up, which makes the value even greater, even if it's more costly.

Sam M ([00:58:49](#)):

I see Richard, on your, um, the recommendations, um, that we should develop recommendation for basically what that list should look like. It, should it be another contract with a third party developer or should be developing ourselves. What, what do you think is the list a timeline for that? I suppose it would also be a function of like,

Richard ([00:59:07](#)):

That's what we need to just, that's what we need to decide. I mean, you know, the town council is looking for us. I mean, we talked about building it ourselves or going back to a PPA agreement and so this committee needs to go back to the town and give 'em our recommendation.

John V ([00:59:21](#)):

So,

Richard ([00:59:22](#)):

And in order to do that, we're gonna have to understand a little bit more about how the regulations have changed and what the advantages and disadvantages of, of a PPA versus a, uh, a town ownership of the field.

Carrie G ([00:59:34](#)):

Well I also think one way forward on that would be to, to do an RFP where we just ask for both options. Say we're, we're looking for two things. We're looking for a PPA option where you can lease our landfill and sell us the energy. You own the project, do all the maintenance, and we're looking for a second option where you build the project for us and we own it and just, and then we can easily set up a model that calculates the levelized cost from the thing that we own. And then we can compare the two and choose the best option.

Richard ([01:00:06](#)):

Okay, well that's, that's what we would do then. You know, this, this is what, you know, this, this is what we're the town, we're asking the town council, this is what we plan to do. Do you, are you agreeing with it? Is this what you want us to do?

John V ([01:00:21](#)):

So

Richard ([01:00:22](#)):

Want us to develop the recommendations?

John V ([01:00:24](#)):

I I I do think we gotta be a little careful to get the carp before the horse here. Cuz first, before we explore the new option, we have to let the encore negotiation come to a conclusion. You know, we're, we could say we're subsequent to the resolution, we're prepared to do these things, but that's gotta get resolved.

Richard ([01:00:45](#)):

Then we can, you know, under the required buy, we can say following Encore resolution of the encore contract. So we're not gonna do this until the encore contract is resolved, but that's, and and they've agreed and they've agreed to assign the interconnection agreement to the next party. And we have and <crosstalk> however

John V ([01:01:02](#)):

It's resolved

Richard ([01:01:03](#)):

And we understand what the results of that negotiation are, then we can proceed to this. Yep.

John V ([01:01:08](#)):

Yeah.

Carrie G ([01:01:08](#)):

Yeah. And you know, if Encore got mad and said that they don't wanna get out the contract, you know, they do have the option to, to build the project for the price that they

John V ([01:01:17](#)):

Go ahead perform.

Carrie G ([01:01:20](#)):

That would be a good outcome too. Right?

John V ([01:01:22](#)):

Yes.

Carrie G ([01:01:24](#)):

<laugh>,

Niko ([01:01:25](#)):

Quick question on all this stuff and maybe something for a lawyer, but I'm, I'm maybe a carrier or Dave, um, related to the opportunity for direct pay under the IRA for tax, tax exempt organizations that, uh, for many of those, uh, tax credits could be claimed now, uh, for a municipal government that are, are you aware of that changing the calculus it would seem to on it's face?

Carrie G ([01:01:51](#)):

Yeah, I think that, I mean, I think it changes it pretty much completely because part of the reason previously that we went for the PPA option is that we figured because a developer would be able to take advantage of those tax credits and the town wouldn't be able to, it, it just made sense to do a ppa and we talked about potentially buying them out after, um, seven years, which is when all those, um, tax advantages would have been used up. And so I think it, I think it makes a huge difference. Um, we still wouldn't get the depreciation benefit, but we would get the ITC and you get it. Yeah, I was trying to figure out how that works. I don't know if anyone's figured out exactly how the direct pay works, but it sounds like you still get it like a delay. You don't get it immediately. You know how like if you do the itc you have to incur the expenses and like file your taxes and then you get it the next year. So it's, it's, you still get it on that schedule. It's not like immediate. So you have to have the cash to, to pay for the whole project and then you get the money back the next year. But, um, I haven't found a lot written about the direct pay option, but that's, that's I found that little,

Speaker 10 ([01:03:10](#)):

Yeah. And, and treasury is still working out, you know, the details as well. Yeah.

Niko ([01:03:15](#)):

It's a probably a question for, uh, you know, a qualified tax or energy financing attorney

Speaker 10 ([01:03:24](#)):

That could be part of the mandate to the, to the attorney right. As well, uh, to whomever we, we retain to just, you know, advise us on that front.

Richard ([01:03:32](#)):

So what are the things we trying to retain out of the, out the encore contract?

John V ([01:03:38](#)):

Just the interconnect agreement. I think, think

Carrie G ([01:03:41](#)):

The,

John V ([01:03:41](#)):

So I, you know, to the, to the

Richard ([01:03:43](#)):

What, what, what was that? What was it Hearing? How, what is it?

Carrie G ([01:03:45](#)):

The interconnection agreement, The, or the interconnection rights cuz they filed the application, but we don't have the interconnection agreement yet.

John V ([01:03:57](#)):

We, we may want more than that. I don't know if it's, if it's work because we may wanna also want the right to the work product as is roughly designed cuz we gotta match the output, um, and layout.

Carrie G ([01:04:11](#)):

I think when you're matching and then David k you will know this, but I think when you're matching the output, you literally just have to make sure your project is that capacity or less.

Speaker 10 ([01:04:20](#)):

That's right. Yeah. Any, anyone, I mean is there's a, yeah, there's a number on the, uh, on the application and whomever steps into that, uh, you know, under an RFP or if, uh, you know, they would just design, they, they would wanna design the system themselves. Okay. Using their own inverters, et cetera. Yeah.

Richard ([01:04:42](#)):

So it's the interconnection rights, basically

Speaker 10 ([01:04:46](#)):

The interconnection agreement with cmp, which is, uh, you know, a document that that was issued by cmp, um, presumably was countersigned by Encore. Um, and you know, that's that agreement.

Niko ([01:05:06](#)):

Is there anything about local or state permitting that's specific to that particular contract that would need to convey?

Speaker 10 ([01:05:14](#)):

There might be an neb, there might be an NEB agreement as well, uh, with the applica with the application. That may have been, I don't, again, don't know. But if an NEB agreement was, was execut, I again, that that's probably not as important as just, you know, again, maintaining the key position.

John V ([01:05:39](#)):

I don't think they did any DEP or permitting work. That's probably why they wouldn't tell us what they did.

Carrie G ([01:05:48](#)):

I think. Well, all I know is cuz my husband's on the planning board, I think that someone went to the planning board, but they didn't, they never, they didn't get as far as approving it. I don't think they had like a workshop where it was discussed

Speaker 10 ([01:06:01](#)):

And they would've had, yeah, they would've had to go through main, you know, through dp. You know, there's, I'm sure, you know, to amend the landfill closure plan appropriately. It's not a, it's not a lot of work, but there's a, you know, there's a little bit of angling there with the,

John V ([01:06:19](#)):

And you know, we talked about, it was like, you know, the amount they've actually put work in, you can compensate them some, you know, nominally for, for reconvey that to the town.

Richard ([01:06:32](#)):

Okay. So, um, are these instructions, are there any other change you wanna make for these instructions that we ask for the town council? We've got the, getting your recommendation for the attorney. We've got, uh, developed recommendations for how best to perceive as a landfill, their PPA agreement or town ownership. And of course we can do it like, and we can make this assessment like Carrie suggests by going to these people and say, you know, PPA with and without our ownership as option. And then the town council provides limitations, instructions on area availability for the field. We wanna include that or not.

John V ([01:07:16](#)):

Um,

Richard ([01:07:18](#)):

I mean, if it's gonna, if it's gonna, if we can't increase capacity, if it's more important for us to, or maybe we wanna consider this later, once they tell us what, what, what the availability is. Yeah.

John V ([01:07:29](#)):

If, if it gets reconvened, it's probably just best to go ahead and build it. If it doesn't get re conveyed, then yes, we would wanna say, can we make this bigger cause?

Richard ([01:07:39](#)):

Okay. All right. And then after town council decides the ownership option, we're, we're talking to do, um, energy committee screens and recommends final contractor for the, for the council and then the town council enters in an agreement. That's the overall process. And as far as, you know, the energy, the development of the recommendations on the timeline for that, we'd say that, you know, you've gotta you've gotta conclude the con the, uh, encore agreement first before we proceed.

Speaker 10 (01:08:16):

We'd be a little bit, a little bit more prescriptive there and say, you know, we, we recommend, you know, you know, kind of dusting off the old RFP, I guess. Right. And just reissuing an RFP under the two, the two options that carry outlined, you know, a build transfer or a ppa. Um, and we kind, there's not a lot of work. I mean, you, you all did the heavy lifting right. In in crafting the RFP initially. Wouldn't be all that much work just re issue it?

Carrie G (01:08:50):

I don't think so. We had a, um, we, you know, we had a site visit kind of meeting that everyone came and so we'd probably have to do that again. But that was, that was basically just a tour of the site and people walked around. I went, It was, it was,

Richard (01:09:09):

Yeah, we had, um, you know, I don't know if we had a a, we have 10 different vendors initially and then, uh, we had, uh, three or four made the cut. So we still have an, we have an extensive, I don't know if there's any other companies out there that have risen since, since we did this, uh, a couple years ago. But, you

John V (01:09:28):

Know, I'm sure a few of 'em bought each other. So,

Richard (01:09:30):

Yeah. So, uh, anyways, you know, between Next AMP and Hep and um, whatever, you know, I think that we probably don't need to do much. I mean, they can just resurrect it and give us a new quote.

Niko (01:09:45):

Um,

Sam M (01:09:45):

Reach out to the ones we currently have on file.

Richard (01:09:49):

What's that?

John V (01:09:51):

Reach

Sam M (01:09:51):

Out to the ones we currently have.

John V (01:09:53):

You know, we, we could decide that later, but we should probably just open it up cuz there's more players and markets probably consolidate a little bit and in good ways,

Richard ([01:10:03](#)):

You know, that's, you know, we can decide that later. What I'm trying to get to, to do here is

John V ([01:10:08](#)):

Process.

Richard ([01:10:08](#)):

Is this what you want us to do? And this is the schedule we're looking for.

John V ([01:10:12](#)):

Yep.

Richard ([01:10:13](#)):

That's, you know, to get them in the loop and a contact

John V ([01:10:17](#)):

I think you've laid out. Looks good to me, Richard. Only thing I say, I think when we choose the ownership owner, we, that we, our job is to recommend to the council. So we will recommend to the council on the second to last option. Second to last item.

Richard ([01:10:32](#)):

Well, after the council decides on ownership, we're supposed to, you know, the, the third item is develop recommendations.

John V ([01:10:38](#)):

Right. Okay.

Speaker 10 ([01:10:43](#)):

You did mention, Oh, sorry, sorry, go, go

Niko ([01:10:45](#)):

Ahead. Yeah, yeah. Richard, you, you asked the question a few minutes ago about like, is there anything we need to get out of, if, if we cancel this contract? I mean, I, I'm guessing there's work that, you know, a study about, you know, maintaining the integrity, the landfill by installing a, a system, you know, some sort of geo geotechnical kind of analysis or feasibility study. So I, I wanted to just mention that as uh, an open topic because there may be more than simply the issue of the queue and maintaining the place in that, that we would seek to maintain or have conveyed to us.

John V ([01:11:24](#)):

So our, our our impression Nico, was that they hadn't actually done very little direct work at all. Um, Yeah. And, and we

Richard ([01:11:33](#)):

Know, have we paid them anything?

John V ([01:11:36](#)):

We did. I checked that. We did, they did issue the check for the option. So the idea of just nullifying the contract cuz it was never completed, is not on the table.

Richard ([01:11:47](#)):

Is, um, did we ever, they entered into a lease agreement. Did we ever get any payment lease payments?

John V ([01:11:53](#)):

Yes, I think they did. They sent their thousand dollars check or whatever it was small nominal amount. And I asked Matt specifically and they said yes they had,

Richard ([01:12:02](#)):

Right. So I guess we've,

Speaker 10 ([01:12:04](#)):

Well they have a, they have a, they had an option to lease and they probably made their, they made their option payment. Um, but they may not have, Was there just a single option? Cuz usually the way the options, it was just a single payment and not,

John V ([01:12:18](#)):

I believe so

Speaker 10 ([01:12:19](#)):

They would didn't have to make a second year option payment.

John V ([01:12:22](#)):

I think it, I don't think they needed to. I think it's actually expired now. I'm not sure where, I'm not sure the exact status of the Yeah, 4,000 years is David, It was a small amount, 4,000 a year. So I think they made the \$4,000 or they've made at least one of the annual payments. I don't know if they've made the second one. Again, that's actually for the attorney to deal with cuz that's, those are leverage points for the, the, the negotiators. They'll, we don't need to weigh in there yet.

Speaker 10 ([01:12:51](#)):

Yeah.

Richard ([01:12:53](#)):

Okay.

Speaker 10 ([01:12:55](#)):

And John, you didn't, you did bring up the idea of, of a, of a consultant to run that, but I I'm not, that might be over complicating it. Like May, maybe it's just a, maybe this is a, a reason.

John V ([01:13:08](#)):

What I would say again is this is when it comes back to us, if we're gonna have somebody come in and build it for us, we would like, it would be worthwhile to have somebody to hire somebody, you know, a consultant who knows these kind of projects to be the town's rep to go through all of the agreements that we're gonna sign to execute on the project, whether it's an own and transfer or a ppa. And the, the amount we pay that person to do that there's enough juice in this project to pay that person well and we all be better off and it won't put it on Matt's plate or to David's plate or other people who are full up and don't have the expertise. So that would be my recommendation, you know, even if we vet the person and say, okay, we need to, I would say we, the energy committee should be finding, um, have an, actually have an RFP for the, or a request for something, you know, some of request to find a consultant to do the work on behalf of the town to get these agreements in place to execute.

John V ([01:14:19](#)):

It's what we did, you know, we, we've proven from the previous thing, we didn't have that expertise. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>.

Speaker 10 ([01:14:26](#)):

Well, I think I, I guess I'm just thinking that, you know, Encore just didn't, didn't perform right. They, they were, we no, we, we have,

John V ([01:14:34](#)):

They didn't

Speaker 10 ([01:14:34](#)):

Perform,

John V ([01:14:36](#)):

I'm sorry. They didn't, they didn't perform, but the reason they were able to not perform is cuz the contract wasn't sewn up.

Speaker 10 ([01:14:41](#)):

Right. I mean, there was, there were legal shortcomings for sure. I mean I I I'm not, Yeah, I'm just thinking like, if we have this, again, if, if we have the, if we retain counsel to terminate the agreement with Encore, that person probably could also step in and advise us, um, on any, on any legal matters associated with retaining or, you know, signing up the ppa or maybe, I'm not sure

John V ([01:15:11](#)):

That that's a possibility. My, my thought was actually to be, to actually hire someone, almost like with your expertise, David or someone like you who knows Solar projects and say, Okay, we want you to run this project for the town and you hire the attorney, we'll pay the attorney, but you hire the attorney and execute the agreements. You tell us what this is gonna cost and you run

Speaker 10 ([01:15:34](#)):

That, that usually falls within the scope. Like I, again, just, that usually falls within the scope of, of whoever, whatever developer wins the rfp. Like that's kind of on them.

John V ([01:15:44](#)):

Right? But the, the, the key is I want the person there before we sign the agreements with the developer. That's my point. I wanna hire my, as an owner's rep, a developer rep that says I have the tax expertise for the town and I can bring in the expertise I need from legal side, whether it's the existing one or somebody else, but someone who basically is the point person who understands how to make sure that this the, you know, signs all the agreements and then also follows the project through to make sure it gets delivered.

Speaker 10 ([01:16:13](#)):

And you, you want the town to hire a project

John V ([01:16:15](#)):

Manager. Yeah.

Dave B ([01:16:18](#)):

There was no one asking about this project unless it was Energy Committee asking me to ask Matt. I mean, this thing was, I mean, it, it would never have gone this far had someone, you know, had like a weekly update from them or really been on it.

John V ([01:16:34](#)):

That's my, you know, that, that's just our, been our experience. So that's what I would recommend that we do as part of that process of, of like, we're gonna, we're gonna, you know, I would run the rf, you know, find that person that we wanna do that first and run the RFP with them. You're gonna, you know, this is the person you're gonna select to sign these agreements with and execute the project on. But that's how I would consider it now, is to get our owner rep with that expertise in a paid consulting position so that it's not volunteers, but it's someone who's being paid to do this job.

Sam M ([01:17:12](#)):

We should put that into this, um, the councilman instruction document that Richard's, um, put together. I think, you know, can you incorporate that as a recommendation perhaps? Um, you know, into maybe the third, the third, you know, uh, row is said, I mean,

John V ([01:17:30](#)):

For, for one project it's not a, you know, it's not a full-time job. It's a part-time job for someone who has expertise mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Um, but there's an, like I said, I think there's enough value in this project to definitely pay that person.

Sam M ([01:17:44](#)):

Agreed. Um, well are we, are we all good with the, uh, document that Richard's presented? Um, you know, with the, discuss with the, you know, the additions that we've, uh, we've discussed this evening. Do we, we put a hold hold a motion to have, you know, that be submitted to the, uh, to counsel? Well, the

Carrie G ([01:18:07](#)):

Only, the only thing in the agree in Richard's document that's different than we talked about is we talked about, um, possibly using the RFP as a means to determine whether ownership or PPA was better versus us doing research and deciding which is better. Um,

Speaker 3 ([01:18:28](#)):

Yep.

Richard ([01:18:30](#)):

Um, I can add that as a description. We can, um,

John V ([01:18:41](#)):

I was just gonna say, I was you gonna vote to empower Richard to, to reflect our comments and send it on? I'm

Carrie G ([01:18:47](#)):

Trustworthy. Oh, yeah, that's fine too. I,

Richard ([01:18:50](#)):

What you're saying is that as one of the options here, the recommendations may include using the R to,

Niko ([01:19:00](#)):

I would think that well, we do have expertise that that may be the better option. I suspect that there, you know, there is a need to have some legal input into that question. And so if the RFP is the better way to get that, it may be, you know, best to include it in the rfp.

Richard ([01:19:20](#)):

I'll include that. Um, I got a note there that says attorney's assistance may be required during this process. So, you know, they need to get the attorney on on board as soon as possible. Um, alright, so I'll submit that. I'll take that to, I'll take that to Matt and I'll take it to, uh, the chair of the town council and ask them to approve this, make changes, get it back to us so that we know how to proceed. And now the timeline for reviewing this, do we wanna give 'em a, do we wanna give 'em a date and they gotta get it back to us?

John V ([01:19:57](#)):

Um,

Sam M ([01:19:59](#)):

I mean, if I

John V ([01:20:01](#)):

Send it to them and suggest that they put it on their next agenda just to, or, you know,

Richard ([01:20:07](#)):

Well, you know, my, you know, it might be that the, that the chair mm-hmm. <affirmative> of the energy committee or the, the town council and look at this and say, Yeah, this is what we want you to do, and then just let him take it to the, to the town. But, you know, if we, if we keep the hurry decision, we keep waiting for the town council to go on the found consult agenda, we're gonna be here for whatever <laugh>.

John V ([01:20:29](#)):

Right. Okay.

Carrie G ([01:20:32](#)):

Yeah. David, David, let email me back and he said that the, his firm already has caps as a client, so that would be easy. So,

Sam M ([01:20:41](#)):

Okay, perfect. We're gonna have with him. Yeah.

Richard ([01:20:44](#)):

Right. So we'll

Carrie G ([01:20:46](#)):

To check and make sure that the, I didn't tell him who the developer was, but I I'm sure that's public since we've been talking about it on a recorded meeting.

John V ([01:20:54](#)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, Fred, Fred, Fred already checked and so did Phil en course's, not a client.

Carrie G ([01:20:59](#)):

Oh, okay.

Richard ([01:20:59](#)):

So we're still gonna give him both recommendations. Okay. They can, they can decide. All right. I'll take this, I'll take this to, to the, uh, to the council.

Sam M ([01:21:12](#)):

Yeah. So they'll, they'll, and at same time, yeah, they'll, they'll, you know, have, um, our lawyer recommendations

John V ([01:21:18](#)):

Should we consider appointing our,

Richard ([01:21:20](#)):

As soon as soon as, uh, Carrie tells me about, you know, get, you need to gimme the contact information for Lael, just so I can be consistent and gimme the contact information for the, for Terry,

Carrie G ([01:21:33](#)):

Sarah for,

Richard ([01:21:36](#)):

And I'll pass both, both of those contacts onto Matt.

Carrie G ([01:21:39](#)):

I'll send them to you right now. Won't mind, people don't mind.

John V ([01:21:48](#)):

Should, should we, um, appoint our rep and backup rep on this pro on this, um, project tonight? Cuz we're not gonna meet again. So we could do that and basically tell the town council, we've already appointed our reps on this process. We're waiting you to point appoint yours. So I would, that would,

Richard ([01:22:07](#)):

I'd be willing to do that.

John V ([01:22:09](#)):

I, I would gonna nominate Richard and who, who, who we should probably have a backup. Um, if, if David's interested, I would love to have David be the backup cuz he knows the material really well. David Kane <laugh>.

Richard ([01:22:24](#)):

Sure. Yeah, I'd be happy

John V ([01:22:26](#)):

To. Anyone else have thoughts on that? I'm,

Richard ([01:22:30](#)):

That sounds good. It,

John V ([01:22:35](#)):

So we we're, I don't think we have to vote, we just do it by acclamation or something. We can vote on it, but

Richard ([01:22:42](#)):

I'll be in contact with you David, cuz I need to know some of your expertise.

Sam M ([01:22:48](#)):

Awesome. Thanks John. All

John V ([01:22:50](#)):

Right.

Sam M ([01:22:50](#)):

And thank you Richard and David for, um, being the point people with, um, tongue cancel, you know, on, um, at least on this, at this point of it. Um, excellent. Good. Should we, I know it's, we have, it's, it's now eight 30. Um, we have a few other items on the agenda. Hopefully none are gonna be as, you know, as, as kinda, you know, um, involved as this one. Um, but we've got some great progress here on the solar thing and I, I think, you know, it's gonna be really great to have, um, you Richard and David know helping to, to, to at least interact with the town council on a regular, regular basis, um, and hopefully get things, you know, done on this, um, <laugh>. So, um, yeah, any thoughts on, final thoughts on the solar piece before we move on to, um, the school or energy contracting piece?

Richard ([01:23:45](#)):

I think David was really hot to try it on this, uh, energy contract.

Sam M ([01:23:49](#)):

Yeah, let's, let's, as long as we have David's attention still, um, and you got a kid crawling on you, David <laugh>, um,

Dave B ([01:23:59](#)):

But

Sam M ([01:24:00](#)):

Did you get, um, what you needed in terms of the energy contracting, um, question that you guys had?

Dave B ([01:24:06](#)):

Yeah, it, it seems like everyone is saying, um, you know, the two years, the best deal. Um, there has been a lot of phone calls in my office talking about a more of like a flex rate, but I, I explained that I said really hard to budget, um, if I have no idea where it's gonna be, you know, in the springtime they think that the, the kilowatt hour is gonna go down a nickel in the spring, but it doesn't really work. I thought that, so I think the, I think the second one, everyone competitive energy and you guys all thought the, you know, the one or two year deal made the most sense. Um, but I guess one question for you guys is, is it ever gonna go back down? Like, we were paying half of this up in our last contract and I was just, just wondering from my own kind of budgetary standpoint of the future.

Carrie G ([01:25:02](#)):

I think it would, I mean, I think that's the expectation, right? Because the recent prices are particularly high because of, um, the Ukraine issue. So the town is kind of going

John V ([01:25:16](#)):

Ukraine and Saudi Arabia, <laugh>.

Carrie G ([01:25:21](#)):

So that's, I think the expecta. Now, one point you could bring up is if we had the solar contract <laugh>, we would be insulated from some of these price bikes. But that's, I think that's the real issue right now.

John V ([01:25:37](#)):

I made that point at the workshop

Dave B ([01:25:39](#)):

<laugh>. And then another, this energy question I had for you guys kind of related to this is, let's say the school project that's voted down. And to me that means we're gonna be, you know, it's only gonna push things out further. It, you know, is there, would it be worth trying to throw some panels up on the school roof? Um, would that completely break my bank? You know, is there any,

Carrie G ([01:26:05](#)):

We were told, we were told by Perry that the roofs of the schools were not suitable for solar panels. But

John V ([01:26:12](#)):

So here, here's a little tidbit about the school roofs. So originally when the school roofs were built, I found out all, most of the sections that were built in the fifties, sixties, et cetera, they were built with flat roofs and oil was about 19 cents a gallon. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, they were actually designed to leak heat to prevent a snow load. And so then when they went back in and then rehabbed them in 93, they stuffed all this insulation up in there and then they got a snow load and the roofs almost collapsed, and then they go back and then re strengthen them. So they're not built for anything right now other than holding the snow load. So there's no ability to put other stuff up on that roof probably.

Dave B ([01:26:58](#)):

So one spot I I was thinking, you know, it'd be a very small grass field, but um, at the track field up is a hill that goes up towards kind of that farm right on 77. Yeah. Um, I mean, it's not a very big field. I just wonder, I mean, how, I just wonder how much solar, how much space do you need to have it even worth to even, I don't know. So solar, solar seems out just with the current school as is,

Speaker 10 ([01:27:28](#)):

Is there, can

Richard ([01:27:29](#)):

We can supplemental, could supplemental Solar, could we purchase Supplemental solar? Is that an option?

Dave B ([01:27:36](#)):

Um, well that's kind of confusing with the contract too, is, uh, talking to competitive energy. We were kind of expecting that supplemental with the Encore mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

Richard ([01:27:49](#)):

Well we, we, we weren't locked in. Well, Encore is because they gave us the best price again for supplemental, but that doesn't mean, you know, we don't have to go to Encore and ask for supplemental uh, quotes.

Dave B ([01:27:59](#)):

So I don't, I don't, I don't know enough about this. Um,

Speaker 10 (01:28:05):

There are people, I mean, there are, there are, you know, developers with solar projects who may be looking to contract their projects. Um, and I, I could put put, uh, you know, some feelers out, you know, we're, well, you know, tied into that all of our projects are, are spoken for, um, with, with CNI customers. Um, but certainly someone would be quite happy I'm sure to, to sell Cape a little, you know, chunk of their project. Um,

Niko (01:28:35):

Yeah,

Speaker 10 (01:28:35):

There may well be some out there.

Niko (01:28:37):

I was wondering about that as well. I, I've, I've read that municipalities are also participating in Maine are also participating in community solar projects, so that

Speaker 10 (01:28:44):

It's a Absolutely. Yeah, no, it's great approach. It's a great, um, you know, it's a great credit. It's a great, what we call an anchor tenant, uh, for sure.

Niko (01:28:54):

Yeah. And, um, my understanding, correct me if I'm wrong, but, uh, that those prevailing rates are lower than standard offer, um,

Speaker 10 (01:29:04):

Oh, by a long shot

Niko (01:29:06):

<laugh>. Yeah. Um,

Speaker 10 (01:29:07):

So standard offer's gonna be like 25 cents

Niko (01:29:09):

<laugh>. Right? Right. Um, but I do, I like what you're, I wonder, and, and maybe John, you might have a sense of this, but, um, in terms of, uh, solar at the school, if the proposal, if the bond issuance is shot down, um, I like the idea of putting it offsite versus on the roof in case the group comes back with a new proposal in a year or two, uh, for a new school building. I don't know if that's in the cards, but, you know, um, just to make the investment worthwhile, it would need to be up on the roof for a long time. And if there's any issues with integrity of the rooftop or if there may be a new bond issuance considered in a year or two, just having it offsite could be the way to go or off the rooftop. And

John V (01:29:53):

Again, we're, we're weeks away from knowing the answer to that, so I wouldn't even bother with it right now. The only thing I would say though, that's relative to the current energy contracting is what David Kane was saying is two things. One of which is looking at what our cancellation timeframe is on the energy contracts that we're entering into, and how long does it take to sign onto a solar deal before you're actually getting the energy you need out of the project, David. Because what you're trying to do is buy enough energy to allow you to participate potentially in that market. And, and, and so I might contract for two years, but if I could cancel in 18 months, that gives me some flexibility around how, how, how fast can I get onto a, onto one of these, um, solar, solar projects that's looking for buyers. That's how I would, I would consider facing it.

Dave B ([01:30:46](#)):

And in that contract, the electrical usage was probably as high as it's going to be because we were running, um, the HVAC unit 24 7 and, uh, you know, Zoom and, uh, all the remote learning stuff was really more electricity than we've used in the past. Not that it might not, you know, increase now they're using electricity for everything in the school. But, um, yeah. So I, I'm, if you could gimme some guidance on, on that I part on time

John V ([01:31:16](#)):

Ballpark, what's the time, time, time window to sign onto a project and actually start getting delivery?

Speaker 10 ([01:31:23](#)):

Uh, uh, we're, you know, everyone's a sort of a standstill waiting for the cluster studies to resolve, but they're, they're starting to resolve. And so projects will start, um, you know, we're at least, uh, we're at least 18 months out from seeing any, any hours from

John V ([01:31:40](#)):

A so, so sign up for two years, let's see what we can get procured for the, in in that period. That, that sounds like the Martin move to

Richard ([01:31:46](#)):

Me. No, I just, we just finalizing something for the church and we contacted, uh, Nautilus and they're just offering a percentage off the, off the rate, off the NEB rate. And you know, the percentage used to be 20%, now they're 15 or 10%. The other company we contacted was, was, uh, n a and they said they don't have a field coming online for one and a half to two years. They're all their fields are full. And Namp was one of the companies that we looked at when we were looking at the solar field, and we'll probably look at them again. It,

John V ([01:32:17](#)):

It's like a, a couple couple of big ones out

Richard ([01:32:19](#)):

There. They've got a pretty good rep. They've got a pretty good reputation.

John V ([01:32:21](#)):

Yep. Kars another one that's out there, I know, um, common I think is out there. There's a couple other

Richard ([01:32:28](#)):

Ones. But anyways, um, a Nautilus has got a field that's opening up, um, this the fourth quarter, but I don't know what they've got for capacity.

Speaker 10 ([01:32:39](#)):

So just one thing to to, to remind everybody about the savings. So, you know, there's the, you know, there's the NEB rate, right? Which is 12 and a half cents or thereabouts. And, and you know, that's, that's published each year and that does, uh, you know, that does reset on an annual basis. And so the savings that that Nautilus and others are offering is a percentage off of that NEB rate. Um, and so to compare it to the standard offer is actually not

John V ([01:33:14](#)):

Apples to

Speaker 10 ([01:33:15](#)):

Apples. Quite accurate. That's a really good point. Yeah. You're gonna still get, you're gonna get that discount that that 15 or 20% off of the neb. So the NEB rate is, is simply the value of the credit. So they're going to ascribe to your bill. And so if we're spending more money, you know, we will, we can throw more credits at that bill. Right? But the savings will still be that kind of, you know, 15 to 20%, not like, you know

Richard ([01:33:46](#)):

Sure.

Speaker 10 ([01:33:47](#)):

50% cuz it's com you know, cuz the standard offer has gone so high. That's all that's, that's

Richard ([01:33:51](#)):

Just how does, how does the NEB rate, uh, compare with the standard offer? That's the relationship.

Speaker 10 ([01:33:58](#)):

Um, it, it, it kind of tracks the standard offer. It's the NEB rate is, is the supply plus three quarters of the, of the, uh, t and d. That's how they calculate it.

Richard ([01:34:12](#)):

Plus three quarters of what?

Speaker 10 ([01:34:13](#)):

I'm sorry? The transmission

John V ([01:34:15](#)):

Distribution.

Richard ([01:34:17](#)):

Okay.

Niko ([01:34:20](#)):

The NEB rate looks like it's about nineteens for

Speaker 10 ([01:34:25](#)):

Sure. Yeah. It's, it's spiked considerably. So we, we should be certainly looking for, if we're gonna be going down that route, we, we should be looking for a much more substantial savings because these guys are in the money at 10 cents. Uh, so

Richard ([01:34:46](#)):

Yeah. Um, it's like Saudi Arabia, they're making money at \$17 a barrel.

Speaker 10 ([01:34:51](#)):

Yeah, exactly. Same deal.

John V ([01:34:54](#)):

Oil comes on the ground at a dollar a barrel.

Richard ([01:34:56](#)):

So David, what are the, what's the cancellation clause for this? If we start two years and then we get into a year of it and we say we we've got another option. What's the cancellation clause? Do you know?

Dave B ([01:35:06](#)):

I haven't asked that. It's a good question. We were on such a good deal previously. I would never even cross my mind, but I'll find out tomorrow and shoot that over before I sign anything or,

John V ([01:35:20](#)):

But it does sound like it's gonna be 18 months before we could get direct energy from any solar, other solar projects in terms of what's gotta come online, what gotta get signed up and the rest of that. So signing up for two years seems like it's sensible even if you've got a six month overhang between switching suppliers.

Sam M ([01:35:38](#)):

Also, one quick note on the um, uh, supplemental solar part. We did do an RFP, as you might remember a couple years ago. Um, also, well I guess it was a year and a half ago, um, you know, for this piece. And so we have relationships now where we got bisley from revision, Encore, Namp, Blue Wave, um, and a few others so we can just, you know, reach back after them. Right. Um, yeah,

Richard ([01:36:03](#)):

Well guess David, what's your schedule? When do you have to have an answer for this? When do you have to sign this?

Dave B ([01:36:09](#)):

Uh, soon. Uh, by the end. By the end of November.

Richard ([01:36:13](#)):

Yeah. So we're running out time

Sam M ([01:36:17](#)):

Again.

Speaker 10 ([01:36:18](#)):

But anything that those solar, uh, pro companies could offer would be, Yeah. Uh, to John to John's point would be a year or or two out anyway.

Sam M ([01:36:27](#)):

Yeah. Okay. Yeah. So maybe worth reaching out to those folks.

John V ([01:36:33](#)):

I think you could say confidently that you, you can't come up with a different solution than what competitive energy is doing in that near term term freight term period. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. So I wouldn't worry about that too much. It's like that's just the breaks,

Richard ([01:36:47](#)):

But I, this

John V ([01:36:48](#)):

Is the cost of not just the cost of not executing well on our solar deal.

Richard ([01:36:54](#)):

Yeah. Just, but, but find out what the cancellation clause is too.

Dave B ([01:36:58](#)):

I will.

Speaker 10 ([01:37:01](#)):

But I just ask a somewhat related to the school's question. I, I heard there was some, there was gonna be some sort of side effort to raise 5 million for the schools for certain sort of add-ons, um, as associated with the, with the school construction project. Mm-hmm. <affirmative> and those add-ons included a solar project. And I'm just trying to understand where that came from, if that was just like a wishlist from the school or did that come from

John V ([01:37:35](#)):

I I, I can speak to that a little bit cause I've talked to ca Colby a little bit about it. So part of the process of actually getting the total cost out the door down as low as possible, they pulled out everything that was, they could pull out and one of the things they pulled out was the rooftop solar. They will still build it ready to receive solar. So they planned that they didn't pull out the costs of, of the wiring supports and

structures that would go along with doing it, but the actual cost of installing the solar on the roof was not there. I'm not sure that they were costing it correctly anyway. And it was something that I thought that the energy committee could help them do. Um, and it's, it's, you know, fairly turnkey once the roof is up there and ready for, for solar. And so it did, didn't seem urgency. I think in the next parts of the design process, if it goes forward, we can flesh all that out and figure it out. We've got plenty of time to figure out how to get that done cuz that solar should pay for itself.

Speaker 10 ([01:38:38](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. And, and I, my it's just about how to finance it. We, we should, you know, again, most like 90% of any solar deal that a school enters into is a ppa, right? There's no cost to the school, Like the school's not buying the panels. Right. Um, and you know, you just get, you know, you send it in a PPA and I just think that that money is better spent also.

John V ([01:39:01](#)):

Although again, with IRA changes it could be more advantageous to own it directly. We don't know yet. Again, that's just a question of how do you finance it cuz it's, again, you, you can, you can, because of that you can use third party finance and use Cap Elizabeth's credit rating to do a third party finance that would look like a PPA but isn't. So you don't have specialized finance, you just third party commercial finance I would expect, I don't know, I think it's gonna be an emerging market, but it's, you know, there's not, there's nothing complicated about saying, I'm gonna put in this 25 year asset. Here's the, the cash flow we think it's gonna throw off. Gimme a rate, here's my credit. So that's pretty straightforward.

Sam M ([01:39:46](#)):

And as far as the school's part is concerned, I mean obviously we'll know in a couple of weeks <laugh>, you know, what's gonna happen there. But the,

John V ([01:39:54](#)):

They're in the process of going through their schematic design and they will run in, uh, simulations that looks, looks at the systems that, that, um, in Efficiency Main was recommending. They're still cautious. I don't think they were, they're not at the point where they were gonna commit to it, but they were gonna run, run the simulations to see what it was at. And part of that was still waiting for Efficiency Main to come back with specific values about how they were dealing with some of the air handling. Because part of the design that they were going with right now had air handlers that were essentially acting as part of the cooling system. Um, and they would've gotten credit for that in the efficiency made rebates. It was just a question of what the percentage was gonna be. And then they, once they know that they can run through and sort of see um, how it works, they understand it pretty well.

John V ([01:40:47](#)):

Basically the efficiency main credit is designed to give you, I'm blanking out on exactly the percentage. I think it was 80% of the cost differential, um, uh, to install it. And so if you can get your, get it so that, um, the average cost, your system will actually pay for itself in less than that average differential. It's always gonna be cost positive to do the efficiency main program. So within those design program parameters, they can work with that. And that's what I wanna explain to them is because their Efficiency mains rebate program is based on an average project and if you designed it so that you're gonna be more cost effective than average you, it's, it'll be in that positive cash flow thing to do it. So, and they seem to understand that aspect of using the, the variable flow and the error handling units that they

were talking about how to get that to work together. So it seemed relatively positive. The, the, the, there was an overall concern on just the variable flow, uh, handling. You still have a, have some additional lifetime costs cuz things, some of the components, significant components were out after 10 or 15 years, but that's kind of normal. So, um, for similar kinds of systems. So I still think it, it still looks promising. Um, but again, we're not gonna, next stage of schematic design is gonna flesh that out and that should be arriving relatively soon.

Sam M ([01:42:16](#)):

So these designs are they for the, for the um, the grade school, middle school that's now kinda anion. Okay. So I mean if the people vote no then is all this work is all for not right? Or is this part of like maybe re pivot <laugh>?

John V ([01:42:34](#)):

So, um,

Richard ([01:42:37](#)):

But you're, you're, you're convinced that, that Colby is on, on board with this, with the new, um, heat exchanging option.

John V ([01:42:46](#)):

Um, I'm, you know, they direct told me the engineer who's doing it, that yes, they're gonna run the simulations with that system to see how it functions and cost it out. So that's all, you know, it's in the game. That's all we can

Speaker 10 ([01:42:59](#)):

And that would be all electric? That would be, there would be no.

John V ([01:43:01](#)):

Yep, yep, yep, yep.

Speaker 10 ([01:43:05](#)):

Uh, and the last thing I'll say on this is just I would love to see us advocate for, you know, should this pass, we can fit a lot more solar capacity in the parking lots than we could put on the roof and we should absolutely cover the parking lots. Yeah. With solar,

John V ([01:43:21](#)):

We talked about that as well. Basically cover covered solar parking charging is, is definitely,

Speaker 10 ([01:43:27](#)):

You can do a, you could probably do, you know, a megawatt or more in, in the parking lots, uh, way more than you could do on the roof of the school

John V ([01:43:38](#)):

If you did

Richard ([01:43:39](#)):

With fewer future issues too.

John V ([01:43:41](#)):

Easier to service everything. Yeah. Yeah. Um, and you'd have car charging as part of the project.

Sam M ([01:43:50](#)):

Do you have any, do you have any agenda items as it relates to, or like action items relate to the school project or, um, you know, what's kinda, you know, hang tight and wait and we we're observing John Fri that you're involved, which is, which is, which is great. Um, you know, do we have to be doing anything at this point in terms of actively participating or

John V ([01:44:09](#)):

Vote,

Niko ([01:44:10](#)):

Wait and see

Sam M ([01:44:12](#)):

<laugh>? Yeah. Okay.

John V ([01:44:13](#)):

Vote,

Sam M ([01:44:14](#)):

Vote

John V ([01:44:14](#)):

On the tell your friends to vote.

Sam M ([01:44:18](#)):

Um, sounds good. I, we've got eight minutes left. I wanna make sure we get through everything. Um, I think we've, the only thing left is really the IRA benefits and I think, uh, Nico, you had mentioned this and um, and then John has kind of dovetails to what you had said before about like, you know, we should be looking for every opportunity that we can just to get the town money you that's out there, these incentives, um, and inflation

Niko ([01:44:44](#)):

Reduction.

Sam M ([01:44:45](#)):

Yes. Inflation reduction Act,

Niko ([01:44:46](#)):

The Federal Inflation Reduction Act. I mean I, um, I've been meaning to pipe in for the last 15 minutes. My wife's 17, I gotta get the kids to bed. But I think the key thing, uh, I think are two things. One is, um, you know, John, you had talked about and advocated for some sort of educational event for the community. Um, that's one thing we could do to let people know about these incentives. Um, some of the other communities nearby have done a lot of this and I think, um, you know, people would be there. It's meaningful for, for people and the, um, decisions they're gonna make with in their homes and, um, having more information about the, um, incentives could make a big difference.

John V ([01:45:25](#)):

I think it's a great thing to do. I just, like I said, I think the, my bandwidth in the town's bandwidth was just sort of full to until November. So it

Niko ([01:45:33](#)):

Exactly.

John V ([01:45:33](#)):

Subsequent, subsequent to that, all for it. Yep.

Niko ([01:45:36](#)):

Yeah. And I think the other thing is the, the item that I had already mentioned about the possibility of direct pay, uh, for tax exempt organizations like municipalities and the possibility of leveraging that for an onsite, uh, owned system. Uh, we, we talked about that already.

Richard ([01:45:54](#)):

Is there a resource that, uh, either David or Carrie can point me to or us to so that we can review what these, what these Inflation Reduction Act is and how it relates to what we've, the ground rules we've been operating under. So as we go through this review process, we're, we're, uh, a little bit more

Speaker 11 ([01:46:12](#)):

Got, I've got a decent, the solar c the Solar Energy Industry Association has a pretty good one describing the changes specifically around solar. Um, but the thing residents can apply for I'm not as sure about. Um,

Niko ([01:46:32](#)):

I'd be happy to send along some bullet points. Um, and then Carrie, you can write back and compliment with the solar.

John V ([01:46:40](#)):

Has anyone seen any, like some of the larger law firms often will put this out as part of a marketing practice that they'll sort of go through a whole legislative rundown of what this means for you in your practice and that kinda stuff. Those are often really, really useful. If anyone, I haven't, I've seen one or two of those online. I don't remember which firm it was, but those are really,

Niko ([01:46:56](#)):

I've got one printed out in front of me and I'd be happy to pass it along, uh,

Speaker 11 (01:47:00):

Tomorrow. Yeah, that would be great.

Niko (01:47:02):

I agree with you, John. Those are, you know, to have the lawyers parse through and figure out what it really means for people is, uh, insightful. So there's, there's quite a few.

John V (01:47:11):

I I used to get, you know, five or five or six law firm newsletters previously in my previous worked <laugh>. I don't getting any to my personal email and <laugh>

Sam M (01:47:20):

Again, I mean, I think we are members of G GP Cog, um, Greater Council, Greater Portland Council of Government, which I think, you know, part of their mandate is to kind of educate their member towns about kind of these things. And we don't wanna rely on them entirely just to spoon feed us stuff. But I would expect that there's some sort of, you know, outreach that they do to their towns about these emerging opportunities.

John V (01:47:44):

I think post, post school bond beginning of the new year, I'm happy to, um, work on folks with some informational stuff. There's a lot out there. I went to the Solar electric week that, that, uh, South Portland had, which was awesome. It was really like low overhead. It was great. They test drove stuff. They had electric bikes and electric vehicles there for people to show and test drive and talk about. And it was, it was great little event right by back, back cove. Um, and super easy. It's the kind of thing we could have easily cooperated with other towns. Yeah. And I could just go and do it again. It was, you know, Troy Moon was one of the ones who drove me around, actually.

Niko (01:48:19):

I think that's the kind of thing we could consider for the future. Um, there will also be about a billion dollars in funding for, um, community planning. Uh, like the type we've described. I'm not sure if, you know, that's something we'd wanna apply for, but it's a lot of money for communities around the country to do GHG planning and they're required to, um, select one community at a minimum per state for funding. Um, I suspect to be more impactful if you grouped with other small towns in the region. I, I don't think many of them have already done plans, but it's a possibility. I think one good news piece is for this money, unlike, uh, some of the Medicaid programs that were funded in the past where the states needed to take action, you could imagine in a different administration, uh, that might not get any for very far. Um, however, with the Inflation Production Act, it's a lot of this is just simply, uh, tax credits on your, on your, your income tax. It's a federal program. There's no state intervention or opportunity for them to, uh, not participate. So, so that's good. It's really just a matter of educating citizens.

Sam M (01:49:31):

Yeah. Yeah. And that's a big part of what I think we had discussed. It wasn't our agenda tonight, but its about kinda educational component around what we do. Do we want to be, you know, actively engaging in town, you know, in like a regular newspaper section about energy issues. You know, again, what, what do you, how do we wanna engage with the, the students perhaps do we wanna have a student

liaison on our committee? Um, these are all really important things and things that we should definitely be talking about next month. <laugh> <laugh>,

Speaker 10 ([01:49:59](#)):

That's a great idea. I love that idea of the kind of the regular, like, you know, Kate Coer, um mm-hmm. <affirmative> article on, on energy efficiency or just energy,

John V ([01:50:12](#)):

Even if it's what other towns are doing.

Sam M ([01:50:15](#)):

Yeah. Highlight, right, highlight this interesting. This, this, this issue. Um, yeah, so I know, Yeah,

John V ([01:50:24](#)):

I think Portland Sustainability Office also put on a really great little seminar. It was a group I think outta MIT who did a bunch of economic modeling that talked about greenhouse gases and Ira and like there's a really cool thing that you could play with the inputs on. And it was a demonstration that someone was sort of a local ambassador for this model. It was very cool. It was a demonstration that they had on Zoom that, um,

Niko ([01:50:46](#)):

Yeah, the, the amount of really cool stuff that's happening about, um, Two Minute Drive down the road for me is frustrating at times.

John V ([01:50:55](#)):

<laugh>.

Sam M ([01:50:58](#)):

Yeah.

Speaker 10 ([01:50:58](#)):

Well I just, I just feel like, yeah, like, like the town should be leading, uh, this as well. Like, we should be set, you know, not, not we, but the town should be setting an example here. You know, and again, just back sort of bringing the conversation full circle around to what, you know, what we could be doing in the town and what the next steps are. You know, once, once we have some more, more bandwidth after the, the vote just to kind of focus on a, on a plan, you know, something that, you know, and, and a and a and a beacon we can all be kind of steering toward in terms of a simple set of goals as I think Nico pointed out earlier, just to just kind of, you know, we're a tiny town, right? We, there's not, we don't have to necessarily overcomplicate this. I mean, a lot of work has been done. There's probably a lot of stuff we could just take off the shelf from another similar I've found that's, that's, that's done more with this. And

Richard ([01:51:56](#)):

Yeah, I, I think we need to focus, we need to identify something and focus cuz we're not that big a group and we don't have that much time and I think the town, you know, we need to decide something and focus on something and push it.

Sam M ([01:52:11](#)):

Yeah. But yeah. John, I'm looking forward to sending, to seeing your recommendations that you've, uh, did the draft that you've, um,

John V ([01:52:17](#)):

Yeah, I'll send that around. So

Sam M ([01:52:18](#)):

For the result of you know, years conversations around, Alright, what do we do now? So I think it's really important you kind David and Nico. You mentioned that, you know, the, the actually find champion within the town, maybe even find money somehow for part of someone's job. <laugh>, assuming they have any bandwidth.

John V ([01:52:39](#)):

Again, one of, one of the recommendations that I was making was that they should consider hiring a, you know, someone, a grant writer. A grant writer for the town who would pay, probably pay for themselves and this would be a significant area of grants.

Sam M ([01:52:52](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. So slash sustainability manager, right?

John V ([01:52:57](#)):

Hmm. <laugh>.

Sam M ([01:52:58](#)):

Well

Niko ([01:52:58](#)):

This stuff is funded in the ira, so

Sam M ([01:53:01](#)):

Yeah. There we go. See it. Exactly. Well,

Niko ([01:53:03](#)):

The other thing is that the, the job we have is easier than it was five years ago when this stuff all came at a cost premium. There's an opportunity to save money on day one with a lot of this stuff.

Sam M ([01:53:12](#)):

Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. Yeah. And I keep, I like, I'm repeating myself, but, you know, gp co you know, has resources that ostensibly are available for us to use, um, for the purpose

of kind of, you know, not do replicating, you know, their efforts. Um, so, um, yeah, I reach out to to, to Sarah and NA over there and kind of, and check in also. Um, it's been a while. Um, but I think that brings us to the top of the hour again. Do we have any final thoughts before we adjourn? Think you offered for, um, for doing this and, you know, and Richard and David for, you know, taking on the, um, you know, at least not all this possibility of it of course, but for being done liaisons with the town on the solo piece, um, that's gonna be hugely helpful. Um, and Carrie, you're not done yet, so we'll have to keep you for a few more, more months anyway.

John V ([01:54:07](#)):

You and <crosstalk> reconsider

Sam M ([01:54:10](#)):

Terry,

Speaker 11 ([01:54:11](#)):

What

Sam M ([01:54:12](#)):

Don't you wanna reconsider? <laugh>,

John V ([01:54:15](#)):

You're, you're welcome. More than welcome to attend frequently as a member of the public and we'd love

Sam M ([01:54:20](#)):

Be,

John V ([01:54:21](#)):

We'd love to be able to still leverage your expertise cuz it's terrific.

Speaker 11 ([01:54:25](#)):

Yeah, No I'd to help. I just, I just have so many things going on. I need to, need to have some time back for me.

Sam M ([01:54:36](#)):

Of course. No

John V ([01:54:37](#)):

Worries. So you're saying we can request that you come and you might show up

Sam M ([01:54:41](#)):

In the future, subpoena you. Well, maybe we can do that.

John V ([01:54:45](#)):

Something else. Something that would be effective.

Sam M ([01:54:48](#)):

Hmm. All right.

Speaker 11 ([01:54:50](#)):

I'll come show off my electric bike if you have a <laugh>, a fair <laugh>.

Sam M ([01:54:57](#)):

Um, we have a move to adjourn.

John V ([01:54:59](#)):

I move. We adjourn.

Sam M ([01:55:01](#)):

Okay. Oh, all in favor?

John V ([01:55:03](#)):

Aye. Aye.

Sam M ([01:55:05](#)):

Okay. Any nays? Hearing none. Meetings adjourn.

Speaker 11 ([01:55:11](#)):

All right.

John V ([01:55:12](#)):

Thank you, Sam.

Sam M ([01:55:14](#)):

All right. Thank you, John.

John V ([01:55:16](#)):

David. David, I think we only voted on one, two things to send Richard's thing out and the, the, the reps to, to the town. I think that's it. Minutes should be short. Oh, Chairman, that's it. <laugh>. Bye.