

## TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABET MEETING TRANSCRIPT

**Meeting:** Energy Committee  
**Date:** Thursday, December 22, 2022  
**Time:** 7pm  
**Place:** Zoom (<https://capeelizabetschools-org.zoom.us/j/86494882668>)

*DISCLAIMER: Note: The following is the output of transcribing from an audio recording. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases it is incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages or transcription errors. It is posted as an aid to understanding the proceedings at the meeting but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

Dave B: ([00:02](#))  
All good.

Sam M: ([00:03](#))  
Wonderful. All right, everybody, welcome to Energy Committee meeting, December 22nd, 2022. Um, super exciting. This the show on the road, on the road. So, uh, in, um, the meeting we have, uh, Richard Parker, John Loz, Carrie Gilbert, and David Bagian representing the town. Um, absent r uh, Nico, David Cain, and, um, Sam Lipman. Anybody else? I think that covers bases. All right. Um, so there we go. Roll, roll call. Do we have any public, um, members, uh, available today? We're looking for a comment. Seeing none. Um, we'll check that box. Thank you. Um, let's prove the meeting, the minutes, shall we? Thank you, David, for preparing these. Um, you'll note that everybody sees, by the way, maybe David just, I know you sent it to me. Um, they should be on the webpage, on the website of the account too. Okay. Um, so I'll assume you'll have access to them. There are two sets of minutes, um, one from the last meeting, um, uh, November 17th, and, um, basically the minute the minutes are to, to approve the minutes and then to, um, adjourn . So, uh, anything else we want to add to that? I guess clearly we have the transcript also, which provides, you know, much more color into what transpired. Um, but as far as formal meetings go, minutes go. Um, any edits or changes to the November, November 17th uh, fminutes? I would note John Volt's name is misspelled for what it's worth. May come back to Han sort of,

Richard: ([02:05](#))  
If we're gonna rely on the, if we're gonna rely on the transcript for the minute minutes, I think the file needs to be modified so that it shows the date, um, of the meeting and, uh, so that we can, it's just not hanging out there without any book as to when it's done. And also the speakers need to be identified instead of speaker one, speaker two.

Dave B: [\(02:31\)](#)

Yeah. So that's gonna be a challenge, like I said, in the, in the town hall when it's a lot of people speaking over each other, so it doesn't really record, but,

Richard: [\(02:43\)](#)

Well, I mean, in general, like for this one, for example, on this,

Dave B: [\(02:50\)](#)

So I, that's done in the, uh, the minutes for the 1117. The,

Sam M: [\(02:59\)](#)

The red print there has the date on it, but you mean maybe more like more and more a formal sort of heading? Is that you're thinking Richard? Well,

Richard: [\(03:09\)](#)

You know, the, this, it, um, it's got the date in it, but you know, the speaker's unidentified.

Sam M: [\(03:17\)](#)

Yeah.

Dave B: [\(03:18\)](#)

I, uh, Richard, look at the, um, 11 17 1

Richard: [\(03:22\)](#)

I am.

Dave B: [\(03:24\)](#)

So every speaker's identified,

Richard: [\(03:27\)](#)

Oh, speaker one,

Dave B: [\(03:29\)](#)

You're not looking.

Sam M: [\(03:29\)](#)

There, there there are two, there are two of these transcripts. Um, one has the speaker one, speaker two, and the other has the speakers named. But I, I, I agree with you Richard, that, um, we're gonna be submitting these as minutes. They should have the, the names. Yep. And it's possible to do that. Right? David, you were saying that there's just a function of

Dave B: [\(03:50\)](#)

Yeah.

Sam M: [\(03:51\)](#)

Painting the software.

John V: [\(03:52\)](#)

Well, it also just takes, it can do with a search and replace. Once you've iden go through, go to the transcript and, and see who the speakers are. Um

Dave B: [\(04:02\)](#)

Mm-hmm.

John V: [\(04:03\)](#)

, the actual video recording, the, the, the challenge is we use two different methods for recording those. Cuz one was recorded, I think, in person, and then the other was recorded on Zoom. And so when we're all identifying ourselves on a Zoom meeting, it takes it off of the Zoom identification. And when we did it at town hall, it has no clue. It just knows speakers. Mm-hmm. . And so, and, and, and so there's just a little more overhead, which is worth doing cuz I, I, I'm hap I much prefer to rely on a transcript, um, for the main, uh, you know, a transcript and, and videotape as the record of the meeting. But it does just require when you're recording places like town hall, that someone like David's gotta go back in and say, okay, here's the video. Who's speaker one? Here's speaker two, who's speaker three, and or we should just remind each other when you're first speaking, identify yourself. Um, but when you're doing live meeting recordings, and that will make it easier to go back and change out the speaker 1 23. And that, that's a function of the chairman when we're recording meetings to have the, uh, for live meetings, to have the speakers identify themselves to begin with,

Sam M: [\(05:17\)](#)

Or every comment, or at the very beginning.

John V: [\(05:21\)](#)

I, I think the software was pretty decent for identifying subsequent speakers. I'm not sure. But, but biggest probably the

Dave B: [\(05:30\)](#)

Biggest, the biggest thing is, uh, you know, in Zoom, like Carrie said, we don't really speak over each other. Uh, it happened a lot more in town hall, and I think that we can make that adjustment. Yep. But yep, I can firm that up.

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

I think that's something worth, um, putting into the reminders for live meetings is that we are recording them and so try to limit speaking over others. Zoom does that by nature of its technology. It only allows one active mic at a time. That's why you have a highlight on the square.

Sam M: [\(06:14\)](#)

No, that's, that's great. I think that, no, those are all kind of really good things. I think to the extent that we could, you know, rely on this transcript for our meeting minutes or at least kinda, you know, add them to the record as well as a substantive sort of, um, contribution That would be super.

John V: [\(06:30\)](#)

David does it, does it make sense to go back and then just, um, um, amend the minutes for next time to identify the speakers?

Dave B: [\(06:37\)](#)

So I, I do it on the Zoom, like if you look at 1117,

John V: [\(06:41\)](#)

I did, I'm saying I'm looking at the one where it wasn't. Is it, is it, can we just,

Dave B: [\(06:45\)](#)

It's pretty messy. There was a, it, it, it, like, so it will identify, let's say like you, and it'll have a pretty good, pretty good job. But then when people are talking over each other, it just kind of goes nuts. But I can try to clean it up for sure. And resubmit

John V: [\(07:02\)](#)

When you get that, as long as the words are accurate and you can't tell who's speaking, you can just say crosstalk.

Dave B: [\(07:08\)](#)

Yeah. Alright. That's actually not a,

John V: [\(07:09\)](#)

That's, that's typ that's typically what happens in when you're seeing it, you know, a recorded transcript, you just hear crosstalk and you know, not sure who said it, you know who's there and, and, um, but the, like I said, the bulk of it should be straightforward. Who's speaking what for these significant chunk when there's crosstalk, I think you just identified as crosstalk.

Sam M: [\(07:34\)](#)

Don't certainly. And if, if Zoom makes it easy for the, for individual speakers to be identified, um, at least to avoid crosstalk, that's great. And if we're in person, if and when we are ever meet in person again, , we'll, um, yeah. The, the chairman, we will make a point of reminding people to not interrupt. Right. Um, raise your hand, that sort of thing so that we can make sure that the meetings right min the, the meeting minutes are recorded cleanly. Right.

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

Alright. A and that's a function of our reliance on the recording technology for those live meetings is just to remind people. Yeah.

Dave B: [\(08:08\)](#)

And so also, uh, zoom's over after this one. We're back in town hall

John V: [\(08:15\)](#)

Undetermined. They will make a decision at the town meeting on January 4th. They kicked it down the road to that meeting.

Dave B: [\(08:23\)](#)

Okay. I hope they keep it on Zoom.

John V: [\(08:28\)](#)

Well, there's, there's three different things. There's in-person meetings, there's remote meetings and there's hybrid meetings. Fully remote meetings are only allowed under an emergency order, which is the one that's expiring that they still may renew. Um, they were considering renewing it last time for six months, regardless, just to see how that turns out. Hybrid meeting technology, they're just getting the technology in the main part of town hall now. Um, and how those rules applied to committees is something they're currently researching and should have information on at the meeting on the fourth. Um, I was at the town hall meeting and spoke to this item, uh, at the last town council meeting.

Sam M: [\(09:20\)](#)

Thanks John, for going, going, going, going to bat for those, you know, for those committees that, you know, find, find their remote option useful. I think we all do.

John V: [\(09:31\)](#)

So the remote while you're traveling piece is pretty flexible for our type of committee. Um, we don't actually vote on anything official. Rarely do we vote on anything. Like the only things we've voted on that carry weight are, um, minutes. And, um, the recommendations we've passed forward, which haven't been many, uh, in the course of a 12 month period, um, that said, you can still, if you're out of town, you're welcome to participate by remote, uh, in that hybrid meeting technology, um, because you physically can't be there. That just puts additional requirements on getting the hybrid technology available for all participants in the meeting, including the public. It means everything you're gonna talk about has to be posted. It's not that different than what we currently do, but we, we just have to be using hybrid technology, not remote technology.

Sam M: [\(10:37\)](#)

We'll get some direction about what that will be if that town makes that available, you know, as of

John V: [\(10:43\)](#)

The next year. Yes. But I would encourage, I will, I intend to, and I would encourage other members to push the town to do more for, you know, with hybrid technology, like the owl that

the school district uses is great. I mean, they're having it, they're doing it for the, they're wired the whole town hall up and then it's a much more extensive thing. But for meeting in the Jordan conference room, if we had an owl, like the school district has, you could do this kind of thing. Mm-hmm. mm-hmm. . Um, it's a much more streamlined than what they, I mean, in the town council, they've gotta have a big screen where you could have members of the public can be seen and, and you can see anyone participating remotely has to really put people on an even footing. But for, for um, smaller, uh, committees and things like that, I think technology like the owl be much more suitable.

Dave B: ([11:39](#))

Is all you need is the owl John, is it just the one or do you need like, additional software with it?

John V: ([11:45](#))

I don't think that you, I don't think that you do. Um, I'm not, I'm not, I don't know. They haven't used the owl for streaming yet. And that's, I think what you'd need to be able to solve. So that's doable, but hasn't been, I don't think they've done it yet.

Dave B: ([12:05](#))

So that would be helpful.

John V: ([12:09](#))

But again, we're two years into this, we can copy off the paper of other people who solved this problem nationwide. I, I, you know, it's frustrating to me that we're two years in and, um, don't have anything yet that is like, let's turn it on and it works.

Dave B: ([12:29](#))

Yeah.

John V: ([12:30](#))

So,

Sam M: ([12:34](#))

Yeah. Well, to the extent that there's any, any, um, who would be the appropriate?

John V: ([12:40](#))

So they're gonna be talking about it on, on the next meeting at, uh, January 4th. And I would encourage people to write or, uh, come and comment.

Dave B: ([12:53](#))

The, IT guys handle it. Sam like the installation, but it is a blurry

Sam M: ([12:59](#))

Island. Yeah. Wondering, you know, there's comment,

John V: ([13:04](#))

The town doesn't have an owl. They're gonna have their big wired town hall room. I don't think they're gonna do anything in the conference rooms that I'm aware of. Um, but again, and they're still determining how the rules apply to committees. But speaking for myself, I think the committees will be better and more effective to the extent that you can use remote and hybrid technology to the maximum extent possible.

Speaker 5: ([13:30](#))

Mm-hmm. ,

John V: ([13:33](#))

And they should be pushing our legislature to do more.

Speaker 5: ([13:38](#))

Mm-hmm.

John V: ([13:39](#))

not less, more.

Speaker 5: ([13:40](#))

Mm-hmm. .

Sam M: ([13:44](#))

Um, okay.

John V: ([13:47](#))

I, I think it would actually be highly effective to allow committees to meet exclusively by Zoom if they so choose. And you allow members of the public just like you, you know, there's Zoom is really easy for that.

Sam M: ([14:00](#))

Yeah. Two years, two years on. We've all kind of figured out how Zoom works for the most part.

John V: ([14:05](#))

Right. But in terms of, but, but for committee functions specifically where they're serving in an advisory capacity and there's benefit to meeting frequently cuz you've got work to do. Mm-hmm. that is, you know, needs to be happening more than once a month. Zoom is ideal for that kind of stuff.

Speaker 5: ([14:21](#))

Yeah.

Sam M: ([14:24](#))

Um, let's go back and approve the minutes, I think. Sorry. Um, this is all really good stuff. Um,

do we have any Yes,

John V: ([14:35](#))

I, I I would move that we approve the minutes where the speakers are identified, which is the, uh, 12, um, 1215 meeting, I think 1217 meeting. And that we, uh,

Sam M: ([14:46](#))

Um,

John V: ([14:46](#))

And we, um, table the table the approval waiting for the amendment or postpone approving the other set. Um, until the speakers can be identified, it can be amended.

Dave B: ([14:59](#))

Do you want me to just send it to Sam or the whole group once I add the names on it? Or should we wait till next meeting to approve that?

John V: ([15:08](#))

Um, no. Is just wait that I, the next meeting?

Richard: ([15:12](#))

No, I think you send it to the whole group. You got it done. Yeah, just send it out. Yeah.

John V: ([15:17](#))

Okay. I agree with that, but I think the approval's gotta come in the next meeting anyway though, so.

Sam M: ([15:22](#))

Yeah. So that sounds fine. We can, we can, we can, you know, table the meeting the minutes for, but I,

John V: ([15:29](#))

I, I, I move that we separate the items and then we can vote on the approval of the, which is the meeting minutes of

Dave B: ([15:37](#))

1117.

John V: ([15:39](#))

17. 1117. Uh, I, I move we approve the 11, 17 minutes as submitted.

Sam M: ([15:46](#))

Any seconds,

Richard: ([15:54](#))

The minutes. Also, we agreed that we'd rely on the transcript, but we said we'd put in the minutes motions that were approved, voted on.

John V: ([16:04](#))

Did we, we should have that.

Dave B: ([16:10](#))

Should we vote on anything? I don't think we did.

Sam M: ([16:15](#))

No. Just the minutes. I think, I mean,

Richard: ([16:17](#))

We haven't, haven't voted on anything for the last two meetings then,

John V: ([16:21](#))

So there should be,

Dave B: ([16:23](#))

That's accurate.

Sam M: ([16:29](#))

Do we, do you recall taking any votes other than just, you know, to approve the minutes and to adjourn?

Richard: ([16:34](#))

Well, you know, you can approve, you know, you know how approve minutes were approved, but there's nothing in the minutes. I should go to the transcript. And when we said we were gonna go at the transcript as the, the, the, the, the main portion of the minutes, we also said that the, we're gonna put in the minutes motions that were passed. Yep. We have a record of those. So you don't have to No,

Dave B: ([16:55](#))

But I don't think we're making any motions, Richard.

John V: ([16:57](#))

No, but we, there's always at least three . So you always at least three. Let me see, where are we at? Uh, minutes from December one. This is a

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

Minute not the word motion.

Dave B: ([17:20](#))

Yeah, if you just search the word motion, you'll see there's not much going on

Sam M: ([17:23](#))

. Okay. Well maybe there's some way we can, when you I like, I like the, the minute format that we have, like that having two, right. The, the, the structure that we currently have, which isn't 50 pages of just transcript. Um, and if there's some way to maybe to, to pull out motions into that. I mean, if that's, if that is generally useful. I'm not, I'm not sure if this is a

Carrie: ([17:59](#))

Topics of discussion which are on the agenda, but probably just recording what is, sorry, there seems to be a argument going on in my house, but topics of discussion that were discussed at the meeting and motions could be in minutes. Mm-hmm. . Um, and

Dave B: ([18:17](#))

That, that's the whole whole problem though is yeah, we just, we just talk and talk and it just turns, it, it, it's not meeting minutes, it just turns into just nothing.

Carrie: ([18:29](#))

Yeah.

Sam M: ([18:31](#))

Nothing is a bit, is a bit extremely,

Dave B: ([18:33](#))

I mean, like that's why that's why the minutes have been so challenging is, you know, we have long discussions and they're great discussions, but when it comes down to is it relevant to anything, oftentimes it's not.

Richard: ([18:46](#))

Well, if there's, if there are no motions, then don't put any in and we can go back and we say, well, we didn't really accomplish that much . As long as we understand

Carrie: ([19:01](#))

I've Yeah. I've seen meeting minutes that are just like the topic and then like discussion ensued and then the next topic and discussion there was more discussion. And then if there's anything that someone says they're going to do, you might record that as well. Or like takeaways. But you don't have to record any of the talking in between Andy.

Richard: ([19:26](#))

Yeah. A actions, I mean, if, if someone has agreed to do something, then that should be in the minute so that we can go back and we can say, you know, follow up on it and say, have you, have you done anything? What's the status of that? And, you know, who's respond.

Carrie: ([19:37](#))

Then when you start the next meeting, you can say, hey. Yeah, exactly. Like Richard said, Hey, last time we met, we decided that, you know, Carrie and Sam were gonna go off and do this and we were gonna talk about it when we get to this meeting. And so then it might help us cut out some of the,

John V: ([19:54](#))

So I, I, I think it's actually, I, I think what we're talking about also is a way to structure the discussions that we have that will be helpful, which is we go by agenda topic, but as we move on to the topic, we can basically close that topic off is, is are there any actions from tonight's discussion? And I call that out as, as we're closing the topic before we go on to the next one. I'm just saying for future meetings.

Dave B: ([20:17](#))

I love that, John.

John V: ([20:18](#))

And so, you know, we're finishing up the solar update as a, any actions related to the solar update? Yes. No, if they are, they look at recorded, not we're on to the next agenda topic, which is this. And then, so as a way of closing out the discussion, we can note if there are any actions that are taken that's,

Richard: ([20:39](#))

That not a, that's not a matter of closing out the discussion, but it's also about, you know, getting a line of action so that we know what's accomplished and who's working on what we can get the status of the next meeting.

John V: ([20:48](#))

Right. But it's a way of also, it's a way of summarizing. There's nothing more that we need to discuss and we agreed on this action and we confirmed that. That's what I'm saying.

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

And who's responsible for

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

That action. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Dave B: ([21:01](#))

Right. You've actually done that, John, in the last few meetings at the end you kind of reviewed, um, any big items, but I i, in each topic point, that would be hugely helpful for me.

John V: ([21:15](#))

I mean, pa part of this is learning to just to structure our discussions to match with the technology and, and be productive. So mm-hmm.

Sam M: ([21:24](#))  
, so

John V: ([21:25](#))  
We're, we're, we are still on the, uh, motion right now. I believe the original motion to, to approve the minutes.

Sam M: ([21:32](#))  
Correct.

John V: ([21:33](#))  
Um,

Carrie: ([21:33](#))  
This, this is, I think our problem, it took us half an hour to get to the approval minutes. ,

John V: ([21:39](#))  
We've

Dave B: ([21:40](#))  
Discussion at the same time. It's,

John V: ([21:45](#))  
But the, see the question right now is, are we, were there any other motions that needed or actions that needed to be called out and, and we don't know. Do we know that? Or we don't know that

Sam M: ([22:00](#))  
On the 1117 meeting?

John V: ([22:02](#))  
Yes.

Sam M: ([22:04](#))  
I don't believe any action items.

Dave B: ([22:08](#))  
I searched the word motion and nothing.

Richard: ([22:13](#))  
Well, you'd have to go through the transcript, find out

Sam M: ([22:16](#))  
.

Dave B: [\(22:18\)](#)

Well, that's what I'm searching.

Richard: [\(22:20\)](#)

So, you know, the, the answer to the question is, I don't know, John, we might have, but it's been a month, so let's, let's approve 'em as done. But let's just make, let's put in the minutes that you know, what the changes we're gonna do, what we're gonna, what we're gonna, the current items that should be included in the minutes. Yeah. Not just see the transcript.

John V: [\(22:45\)](#)

Yep.

Sam M: [\(22:46\)](#)

And the action add action items. I think we should go into the, the, the, the meeting minutes that we're, that we see here. Um, you know, as, as well as, yeah. Any, any, make any major motions, you know,

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

Motion action item and responsibility.

Sam M: [\(23:02\)](#)

Yeah. And then, yeah, what there's a, there's some sort of cue in terms of the software that will jump out it at you, David, as you kind of are reviewing it. Well, is there a button you can push and say, Hey, this is an action item. What do you have to go through literally and look, look up the

Dave B: [\(23:18\)](#)

Word action. So I normally search the word motion and vote voting motions and it will pull up in the transcript. So I mean, all those words, you know, do are triggers.

Sam M: [\(23:32\)](#)

Okay.

Dave B: [\(23:36\)](#)

So

Sam M: [\(23:36\)](#)

I, we have, we have, we have a motion to approve the minutes from November 17th. Yeah. Anybody you wanna second that?

Carrie: [\(23:51\)](#)

Sure, I will.

Sam M: [\(23:54\)](#)

Okay. All approve say aye. Approve.

Richard: [\(23:58\)](#)

Okay,

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

John, still reading.

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

Well I was looking, searching for recommendation cuz actually recommendation comes up a lot.

Speaker 5: [\(24:08\)](#)

Um,

John V: [\(24:08\)](#)

I'm just seeing if they're,

Dave B: [\(24:35\)](#)

I'll send an email out just recapping what we want in the minutes.

John V: [\(24:39\)](#)

Okay. I, what I, what I would suggest is you take a look at the texture on recommendations as well. There's a lot of, we talked a lot about it because that's what we can do, but I'm not sure we might have actually made a recommendation or someone was going to, or someone said they were. So I recommended, for example, that we do certain things to town council, but we didn't all agree on that or say who should do that. We just talked about potentially doing that, but that didn't get recorded as something to follow through on and that's worth cap. Those kind of things are worth capturing. So you met recommendation shows about 15 or 16 times, um, both in terms of as the committee to the town and relative to encore. So rather than just motion, it should be, um, uh, that's another key word you should look at. And, and, and, yeah.

Dave B: [\(25:28\)](#)

Yeah. I didn't look that one up. That's, that's a good suggestion.

Speaker 5: [\(25:34\)](#)

Um,

John V: [\(25:40\)](#)

Me look another one.

Richard: [\(25:44\)](#)

All right, so it gets, so that it gets captured, I'd like to make a motion.

John V: ([25:50](#))  
We have to finish

Richard: ([25:50](#))  
The, the minutes include motions made and approved and action items with responsibility.

John V: ([25:57](#))  
So we, we get through in approving the first set of minutes and then this under Richard's motion.

Richard: ([26:02](#))  
I thought we already approved those.

John V: ([26:04](#))  
Good. I was, I was still reading something so I wasn't paying attention, so I was asking if we did , so. Yep.

Sam M: ([26:09](#))  
So we had, we had vote to approve them 11, 17 minutes. Um, good. And oh, a allies raise your hand. Yep. Any names? Okay, motion passes. 11.

John V: ([26:24](#))  
Richard Mo Richard's motion. Would you restate your motion, please?

Richard: ([26:28](#))  
In the future? The minutes would include any motions made and approved and, and action items with responsibility.

Speaker 5: ([26:41](#))  
Okay.

Sam M: ([26:44](#))  
Okay. Two seconds.

John V: ([26:47](#))  
I second.

Sam M: ([26:48](#))  
Okay, Eli. Okay. Motion. Motion passes. Thank you, Richard.

John V: ([26:58](#))  
I, I, I move that we postpone approval of the, um, was it, what's the next meeting in 12?

Sam M: ([27:05](#))

It was 1217. One 12. One 12. One was the, um, special meeting. Special meeting. Right.

John V: ([27:10](#))

I, I recommend we, uh, postpone approval of the, I move that we have postponed the approval of the 12 one special meeting minutes.

Sam M: ([27:16](#))

Okay. Second go

Richard: ([27:19](#))

When

John V: ([27:19](#))

Till the next meeting to, to add. So they may be amended to show speakers and any actions.

Richard: ([27:26](#))

Okay.

Sam M: ([27:29](#))

January meeting.

John V: ([27:31](#))

Yes. So Paul, I move that they're postponed to the next meeting, so they may be amended to show speakers and any actions.

Sam M: ([27:45](#))

Okay. Any seconds? Okay, I'll,

Sam M: ([27:52](#))

Okay. Motion passes. Thank you, John. Okay, so we don't have any other, um, minutes to approve at this point, I don't believe. Um, let's carry on with the with the meeting. Um, okay, so we have a, we have quite a few items on the agenda. I think we can zip, zip through a few of these. Um, but I think the solar water project update is probably the one with the, the most, you know, substance at the moment. Um, sounds like we have some sort of movement with Encore again. Um, is it worth giving a, again, a, you know, a, a two or three minute recap, Richard, of, of, um, yeah,

Richard: ([28:38](#))

Well we, you know, we had the town meeting and the, the, um, um, attorney, uh, gave brief summary and, uh, John and I and, uh, the attorney were there and basically the town, uh, approved, uh, for the town manager to, uh, to go ahead and finalize an agreement with Encore. And, um, and the other piece that was done at the same time was that they identified a contact for the energy committee and the town council to work with, uh, to be involved with, uh, to stay in the communications loop with the solar field. And, uh, that person is, um,

John V: (29:28)

Nicole,

Richard: (29:29)

Nicole

John V: (29:30)

Bouche. Um,

Richard: (29:32)

And so, uh, after the meeting, uh, the attorney and Matt were supposed to continue working with Encore that an agreement signed. I have not heard whether or not that agreement has been finalized. I sent an email to Matt. I hadn't heard anything, so I sent an email with him today, uh, asked him what the status was. Um, I don't know what the vacation schedule is next week, but if I haven't heard anything by next week, uh, I'll send another email out. Um, because Encore, you know, part of the, part of the comments from Encore was that it had to be done soon in order to assure construction next year. So I'm concerned that, you know, things slip so I'll keep bugging people.

John V: (30:20)

Part of the conversation was also that, um, our attorney, Dave, David was relatively happy. He thought he got one of the more difficult things and that's where he had focused on, which is essentially, uh, an ability for the town if Encore doesn't meet its large obligations and on schedule, the, the, the town can recon convey the project to the town for essentially a hundred thousand dollars, which ref represents costs in. Um, and then they could do the project as is itself as a municipality. So it preserves both pathways forward if encore's not performing. Um, I provided a number of sort of, um, more minor contract issues and changes and, uh, David had commented on all of those that most of those were workable. They, they didn't seem to be problematic. There was a few he wouldn't, wasn't gonna ask for cuz he didn't think he'd get, including Encorp being as signatory to the agreement. But that's, that's all fine. Um, uh, I think our, you know, previous path saying get this done, this is the fastest path forward to be able to have something up and functioning. Um, that seems like the path they're on, they're on, they seem to be in a hurry. I'm surprised we haven't heard back. I'm, uh, I'm glad that Richard is pursuing it. Uh,

Richard: (31:53)

It's good. Yeah, I think, you know, the, the idea was that if you, if you go through the, um, the memo that I sent out about the minute, the minutes and what we were looking for, uh, basically, uh, one of the things was communication, having Encore, um, have a project manager contact mm-hmm. , uh, the attorney said, uh, Encore, he, he briefly discussed that with Encore. Uh, they're okay with it, but whether or not it gets included in the contractor or not may not be the case. But anyways, he said from Encore standpoint, he felt that they would be okay with that. So that's something we need to push on our side if it doesn't get in the contract. Um, the

other thing about, um, um, we did not discuss anything about, uh, town ownership. We didn't get into that at all at the town meeting. Uh, and based on, you know, our discussions with them that it would just be two owners for the town to take on any sort of that type of project.

Richard: ([32:59](#))

Um, I asked the attorney, uh, after the meeting that if, um, uh, we'd like a copy of the full contract once it's signed and he said that would have to come through Matt probably. So, uh, there, you know, I don't think we've ever seen the complete contract. So consequently, you know, we're, we're, you know, some of the contracts, some of the comments we make, you know, may be off the wall or may not be consistent with the contract. So we need to understand what's in the contract so we're not, you know, uh, you know, going off half cocked and raising issues that, that, uh, aren't, uh, aren't included in the contract. Um, you know, the other thing at the meeting of course, um, uh, uh, the, and, and at the town meeting and in our local meeting, of course the attorney said, you know, Lael said that he was pretty happy with Encore, he'd worked with 'em before. And so that's the, that's another point he made at the meeting that, you know, he thought they were a good company. He thought that the changes that they were making was, um, uh, was consistent with what's going on in the industry at the time. And so, you know, he basically, you know, um, alleviated any fears or concerns we might have about contract, uh, co encore not being a good partner in this whole thing. So

John V: ([34:21](#))

He, he reiterated that they'd been aggressive and that the pricing that they were offering was, he didn't think he'd be able to negotiate anything better than what was being offered. Um, he was also saying part of this was because they never got final approval, which is the, um, new England ISO approval. So there was may have contributed to the communication problem. I mean, I, I still don't think it explains all of it. It explains part of it cuz they basically, they've got nothing to say they can't do anything until they get the ISO approval to get the project built. Um, but even if that's saying that would've been helpful, saying what they've actually done would've been helpful, um, you know, any of it. So, but that was, that does explain sort of, um, what happened. Also, David said that there's gonna be this, uh, significantly large level of attrition of projects that were filed that actually make it to getting built much higher than usual more in the order of 50, 60, 70% of the projects that were proposed may not get billed. Um,

Carrie: ([35:30](#))

Did, did we get an update on the, um, cluster study? Because remember at, when we were speaking, when we had the meeting on, um, December 1st, um, we heard that Encore seemed to think that they could build the pr start working on construction now, but David Kane was under the impression that the cluster study was still ongoing. And I, I have to admit that we're working on the cluster study and I don't, I haven't, I didn't check in with anyone in my company who's working on that, but we have a lot of clients in that as well. Um, and so

John V: ([36:04](#))

It was only mentioned secondhand by David cuz he seemed to confirm David Kane's information in his comments to the town council when he was, but

Carrie: [\(36:13\)](#)

Where's where they can actually start construction yet,

John V: [\(36:16\)](#)

Right? The, the

Carrie: [\(36:17\)](#)

Today

John V: [\(36:19\)](#)

The, well the New England ISO approval was David believed was just delayed from the end of this year to March. To March. Yeah. Da David's, our David LA's comments seemed to confirm that, or, um, that it was March was the,

Carrie: [\(36:35\)](#)

So en Encore now thinks that they also can't start construction. Cuz when we met on the first, they, you like Encore thought that they were all set, but David Kane is the one who thought there might be a problem.

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

Well, if you look at the, the, the documents that Encore Supply, they've got construction start April one.

Carrie: [\(36:53\)](#)

Okay. So they, they're thinking they still need the approval from the cluster study. Okay.

Richard: [\(36:58\)](#)

Now whether or not that includes consideration for the cluster is another question that might have been just what they were thinking. They might have been thinking

Carrie: [\(37:06\)](#)

Wait till it's after January, wait till it's not frozen anymore. .

Richard: [\(37:10\)](#)

So I don't know if that April one, uh, date, uh, in takes into consideration that the cluster of pool was gonna be in March.

John V: [\(37:19\)](#)

My, my guess was that was a April date was based on a a year end approval and that the months spring months were allocated towards re any other remaining d e p and uh, other kinds of local approvals to be done. That can probably be, um, condensed. So if you're getting a, if you actually do get a cluster study approval in March, you can probably condense the remainder of that permitting as long as you've been planning for it that it's actually gonna, that

the ISO's gonna come in March. You can probably condense that, but I would guess it would push it back a month or two from,

Sam M: ([37:58](#))

Are there things that we need to do on our end in order to, to, to keep the project moving? Or is encore, are they covering all of the permitting and you know, all of the the local approvals as well? I mean, I assume

John V: ([38:11](#))

What they said is what, just to why part of the reason we wanted to have a contact on the town council is when this starts to go, we need to be ready to be responsive as a local permitting agency to planning board d e P or anything that would touch, has local activity around the, the permitting before it's ready to go. You just need to be tuned into that and that's why, part of the reason why, why we have a contact going forward that Richard, uh, asked for. So we did, did what we can do, I think.

Sam M: ([38:44](#))

Um,

John V: ([38:44](#))

So the action out of this discussion wa I think summarizing it, which is Richard is gonna continue to write, uh, to, uh, Matt to find out the status of the contract as well as ask for a complete, to the extent we can see it, a full copy of the completed contract. Is that those are, were two sort of two different things. Is that accurate, Richard?

Richard: ([39:11](#))

Yeah, well there's three things basically. Okay. I'm gonna talk about the com. I'm gonna ask about this. The construction start date includes the, the, the, the current approval date of, uh, cluster approval of March. Uh, and then what was the other things you said, John?

John V: ([39:30](#))

We'll, contract and just, is it signed? Is is the amendment signed? We had a few things still negotiate, get papered. Yeah. Yeah.

Sam M: ([39:45](#))

Thank you, um, Richard for, for coming in doing so much of the, the, the work around coming move, you know, getting this back, you know, going again, um, and for staying on top of all the parties need to be, you know, kept on top of moving along. So huge help.

Richard: ([40:05](#))

I'll take care of those three things and I'll have, if, if I, um, I won't wait till the next meeting if I, I get any information. Okay. I get information, I'll pass it

John V: ([40:16](#))

On. Excellent.

Sam M: [\(40:18\)](#)

Sounds good. Um, you want me attach this? Um, but it's not so an agenda item are the supplements supplementary, um, comes solar, solar contract that we want. I know, you know, Encore of course had been the firm that we had selected, you know, to provide that to us as well. Uh, has that come up in your deliberations with, with the attorney or the town or with Encore? Do you know? Uh,

Richard: [\(40:44\)](#)

What's that, what's that again?

Sam M: [\(40:45\)](#)

The supplementary, uh, solar contract that we wanted to sign?

Richard: [\(40:51\)](#)

No, that, well we talked about that when the attorney at the, at the meeting and the attorney as I recall, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think he said he hasn't been involved with that at all. So that basically is just sitting out there.

John V: [\(41:04\)](#)

He said it was, is good to know and sort of handled it second as it comes up. I think.

Richard: [\(41:14\)](#)

So I think what we should do is, is as soon as we get this thing done, you know, or, or seems that that's moving, then I think the next question we start bugging 'em on is a supplemental.

Sam M: [\(41:26\)](#)

Yeah. Cause that's, it's gonna be a function of, you know, a facility they're able to de you know, they are, are not able to develop. Um, you they would, they would pull from. So like yeah, clearly it's a, it's a segment thing. So, um, yeah, I like I would would, you know, recommend, you know, as an action item to, you know, uh, to be looking at that one. Um, you know, certainly coming out as, as a swing moves along as well. Um, and I guess with the, with you know, contract,

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

Do we have a full contract of the supplemental?

Sam M: [\(42:04\)](#)

I think we have an unsign Do we sign it yet? Did the town sign then? We had, we had one that was, it's been

Dave B: [\(42:10\)](#)

Like,

John V: [\(42:13\)](#)

The reason I ask that is it, it may or may not be advantageous at the moment cuz it was based on a discount off the standard offer and I'm not sure where we are relative to the standard offer with our current pricing,

Carrie: [\(42:25\)](#)

But I think the way those contracts work is it's, it's just a discount off the standard offer. So it's like 15% off. Right. So it's always less than the standard offer. So you

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

Can't, but I, I think we're getting it through an energy broker currently that may be less than standard offer. Oh,

Carrie: [\(42:40\)](#)

Oh, okay. Yeah.

John V: [\(42:41\)](#)

That, that's what I'm saying. So before

Sam M: [\(42:47\)](#)

May maybe a better,

John V: [\(42:48\)](#)

Before we push it forward, we might wanna make sure that we're still want to That's,

Dave B: [\(42:57\)](#)

We, we also had that thing come up that David spoke to for a minute about, um, that community solar opportunity, but he thought that might be too many credits at the end of the day. Um, that community Solar one that I, I guess I'll, if you were at the special meeting, I, I had sh shared community solar put together actually a pretty impressive savings potential. But, uh, the lawyer pointed out a number of potential issues with that.

Sam M: [\(43:27\)](#)

Isn't that what the, the, their encore supplemental contract is for it? That's

Carrie: [\(43:31\)](#)

The other contract would be, it would just be a different Yeah, this community's, the company's called Community Solar. They're just competitors to Encore.

Sam M: [\(43:40\)](#)

Oh, I see. With

John V: [\(43:42\)](#)

The, part of the challenge was I believe Community Solar was the marketing group and we weren't sure who the actual project Yeah. Um, developer and owner was. And so the marketing firms don't often know, or

Carrie: [\(44:00\)](#)

Oh, that's right. Yeah.

John V: [\(44:02\)](#)

Aren't is in touch with what's coming online. When, when is it really available? All the nitty gritty of you need to know as a large consumer.

Carrie: [\(44:14\)](#)

David Lael said that some of his clients had been getting off, I think, um, had been getting offers and then when they went to follow through that offer wasn't as good as it had seemed. So

John V: [\(44:31\)](#)

Yeah, no, if we're gonna do something like that, I don't, I think we would want to go directly to the people who are connected to putting the projects in the ground and there's a, you know, you can, those are all listed on the list of projects in the state. Yeah. So, you know, you don't need consumer solar, you need the people who are actually building the projects.

Sam M: [\(44:56\)](#)

Um, like Encore for example.

John V: [\(44:58\)](#)

Well, Encore Room, I think it's in carpool there. Oh, there's a, there's a couple other, and so there's, there's several,

Sam M: [\(45:04\)](#)

You know, yeah. We did all rfp, we collected, we, we collected,

Carrie: [\(45:08\)](#)

We have a good list.

Sam M: [\(45:10\)](#)

. Yeah. This, this,

Carrie: [\(45:13\)](#)

I think the key thing is, is if we go out and find a different company is to figure out where they are. Cuz since we did our rfp, some things around the policy have changed a little bit. So we wanna make sure we sign up for, we talked about this a little bit before, but we want a company basically who's got a project that's actually gonna go forward and, um, soon.

John V: [\(45:35\)](#)

Yeah.

Carrie: [\(45:37\)](#)

Mm-hmm.

Sam M: [\(45:37\)](#)

. Um, this also kind of makes me think of, um, uh, David, you had any questions about the, our normal procurement for, for power? Um, did you need our, our, our guidance, you know, and wisdom on that? Or are you all sorted out in terms of that? Is it worth coming back to regularly as you guys?

Dave B: [\(45:59\)](#)

We, we've, we've agreed on the two year deal.

John V: [\(46:03\)](#)

Okay,

Sam M: [\(46:05\)](#)

Great.

John V: [\(46:06\)](#)

I'm

Dave B: [\(46:06\)](#)

Having some issues with just planning on, so that was just the rate itself. The delivery charge is another, uh, animal in itself and C M P, um, I contacted them today and they're not gonna gimme much guidance. They gave me like very little, uh, so I need to talk to Direct Energy, which is who's gonna be supplying it and they might, might have some better guidance, but, um, you know, the delivery charge for the school is, it's significant. It is, you know, 48%, 40 something percent of what the bill is. So for last month it was \$9,000 just a delivery for the school.

Carrie: [\(46:50\)](#)

So I, so is it, um, is the rate based on the, um, a demand charge or like, do you know how it's  
Yeah,

Dave B: [\(46:58\)](#)

So the demand, uh, plays a factor, but like there is no clear cut from my perspective. There's no clear cut, uh, rhyme or reason on why some of it works. And we have an unpredictable usage in the building just because, you know, you might have a club that works after school for one month and then seasonally that club ends and now this, the energy ebbs and flows in very weird times. But I'll reach out if like

Carrie: [\(47:31\)](#)

It's with a demand charge. If, if if those weird chimes all lined up together, then that, then, then that's when you might get hit with a, with a big bill. Right?

Dave B: [\(47:40\)](#)

Well that's what I think actually might have just happened. Yeah. Because they have this like, uh, gaming is like a varsity sport now, and Cape has a very good team and um, they just had like their season, so they were after school and like on all the computers, I don't know, it's, it

Carrie: [\(47:55\)](#)

Heck yeah. That could have been it. Yeah, because the demand charge is based on like your, your greatest usage and mm-hmm. , you know, like, so if if everyone was doing, you know, if there was a lot of things going on at the same time, they use a lot of electricity, you

John V: [\(48:11\)](#)

Could have, they were hosting a, you know, state championship co competing eSports team,

Dave B: [\(48:16\)](#)

mm-hmm. .

Sam M: [\(48:19\)](#)

And does that demand charge

John V: [\(48:20\)](#)

Games?

Sam M: [\(48:21\)](#)

Yeah. Right. , does that demand charge get reset every, every month? Or is that stick for? Uh,

Dave B: [\(48:29\)](#)

I think it is. Um, I think it's a set, a set timeframe.

Sam M: [\(48:35\)](#)

Yeah.

Dave B: [\(48:36\)](#)

Uh, it's on the bill. I could share it with you guys for next meeting.

John V: [\(48:40\)](#)

It, it might be a rolling average. So, so you'll get, you, you may not get benefit immediately if you drop it, your de demand that down. But you make my guess, my guess thank

Sam M: [\(48:56\)](#)

As as is by way of being useful to the town. I wonder if it would be, uh, insightful if we could help identify ways to, you know, keep that demand charge low. I mean, if, if there's any control

that we have over that in terms of reducing the, the, the amount of money that the town pays for utilities, you know, this strategy is that we could help them understand, um, again, given the state of the schools, you know, who knows if it's even impossible to really, you know, do much. It's really, you know,

Dave B: [\(49:27\)](#)

Um, competitive energy emails me like in the summer for like peak days mm-hmm. , but it, it's still hard to get people to get on board. A lot of people just don't see that the school being, you know, anyone's money. You know, like there's windows open all the time right now because people are worried about covid even though, so the heat's just leaving the building, you know, people don't treat the school as their own home. And, um, it's a challenge. But with that, I, I will gather some information about just, um, some, maybe some insight on demand charges.

Sam M: [\(50:06\)](#)

Yeah, that'd be, yeah. That'd be become useful. And, and again, you know, if we, if we could, you know, help help the, the, the town, you know, a wiser consumer of power, then I think it's kind of one of the things that I think is fairly clearly in our mandate. Also,

Dave B: [\(50:22\)](#)

I'll add the most recent CMP bill to a document to for the next meeting. Okay. Just so you guys could look at that. That's the single biggest bill and worth looking at.

Richard: [\(50:32\)](#)

There's, I read in the paper there's a new program that's being proposed by C M P and Viant about, um, uh,

Sam M: [\(50:44\)](#)

Restructure, right?

Richard: [\(50:45\)](#)

Yeah. Rate structure and delivery charges, et cetera. I'm not sure if there's some, uh, but anyways, in that, I think there's also some stuff about time of day, um, especially, um, it's also based on, um, uh, most of your savings is gonna be, would be in the wintertime if you can control your heat then mm-hmm. , uh, um, but anyways, there's some, there's some things coming down on that and I think would seem like time of day would make is if it's not available now, it seems like that it's something that should be coming and that's something we should take advantage.

Carrie: [\(51:24\)](#)

Yeah. There's definitely time of use rates available for,

Richard: [\(51:28\)](#)

Pardon? Hi me,

Carrie: [\(51:29\)](#)

Gary customers there. There's definitely a ton of use rates available for large customers like the schools. I think now, um,

Richard: [\(51:38\)](#)

You know what the timing are, what the time brackets are.

Carrie: [\(51:41\)](#)

I, I don't, I don't, um,

Dave B: [\(51:49\)](#)

I'll send you what C M P gave me yesterday. It's like a document a lawyer sent just gives some broad language recharge.

John V: [\(51:56\)](#)

Ju just broadly speaking, time of use rates may be advantage ages to the schools. Cuz often your high electricity numbers are that sort of afternoon get home from work peak time and particularly when it's warm, cuz that's when your extra cooling kicks in. And if you're closing up the schools at two 30, you know most people are leaving at 2, 2 30, you should be able to drop a lot of load

Carrie: [\(52:20\)](#)

Except if they're having e gaming tournaments.

Sam M: [\(52:24\)](#)

,

John V: [\(52:26\)](#)

That's that's true but empty. So

Sam M: [\(52:37\)](#)

Didn't mean that that the, the building is, is being operated in a way where the power actually, you know, does go down when people are away. Right. Which may not necessarily be the case.

John V: [\(52:47\)](#)

I, I'll have to look. I I, but I should, lemme I'd like to take a look at what, what CMP is doing with time of use rates and see that there might be something worth looking at there.

Dave B: [\(53:02\)](#)

Actually, there's,

Richard: [\(53:03\)](#)

Part of this thing is just might be awareness. I mean it's like David said, you know, people don't care. It's just a school, it's nobody's money. But, you know, people start seeing 9,000 bucks

because we've got a high demand just on the demand charge. You know, that, that might get some people's attention.

Carrie: [\(53:18\)](#)

It says that, that the, this email you just forwarded says that, um, that you're already on the time of use rates structure.

Dave B: [\(53:31\)](#)

But speaking of little things like, um, we recently the new superintendent has made, um, closing the doors, entryway doors like a priority school safety. And I'm already seeing a huge, uh, savings from fuel costs. I haven't had to, I've only like refueled fueled the school like twice where last year I'd probably done it four times by this, by this period. And that's just by keeping the front door, you know, closed as much as possible. Um, which sounds silly that that was a thing, but yeah, these little things do make saving big

John V: [\(54:05\)](#)

Savings. It hasn't been as cold, but

Dave B: [\(54:07\)](#)

Yeah. Yeah, that, that too. It hasn't been as cold, but,

John V: [\(54:10\)](#)

But still it can make a big difference.

Sam M: [\(54:13\)](#)

Yeah. Closing the front door is useful for keeping the heat in . Yeah, it's definitely a fact.

Richard: [\(54:19\)](#)

All you gotta do is look at the degree days last year, this year from then until now and see how the, see what the comparison mm-hmm. I doubt even though it's been warmer, I doubt if the degree, degree days are, are, are half what they were last year

Dave B: [\(54:32\)](#)

Mm-hmm.

Sam M: [\(54:34\)](#)

Does. Um, again, I think we're kinda, you know, getting, getting outside of our agenda items. I think we should have, we should have an agenda item for energy efficiency maybe for, for next month. Um, but does competitive, um, power, that's the name of the company that we work with, do they provide like a dashboard for this kind of thing? You know, just so we understand kinda, you know, and I know some competitive suppliers do this, they say, Hey, you know, time of u time of use rates are gonna be up during these hours. And like, I think you said David, so you can email like in the summer about this. Yeah. But can they be, are there like an ongoing resource for us just to be maybe more on top of, of this?

Dave B: [\(55:13\)](#)

So they're like not in our system, they kind of are more broad. So like, you know, and they, they know peak days, you know, in the state. It's not even really just for us. Those are peak days for the state. Right. Um, I wonder if I could get more in touch with Direct energy. That's my next call, um, is I wanna, I want to talk to Direct Energy about how they feel about delivery charges and um, yeah. Is there a dashboard or you know, what do they see on their end being a, you know, a pretty big supplement supplier. They should have some insight to that.

Sam M: [\(55:53\)](#)

Um, okay. Are we, are we finished with the solar, the solar project conversation? I was looking back at the agenda. Um, do you find any action items to come out of the, the solar conversation that beyond what we were identified? I don't think so. Okay. Um, David, can I suggest we move the, uh, the eve utilization conversation up since I know you actually produced some, some materials or you, you found some information about that? Um, would o bek if, if we talked about that now, are you

Dave B: [\(56:29\)](#)

Yeah, yeah, yeah. I, um, I don't have that in front of me. I'll pull it up. But yeah, that was okay. Right from the dashboard and I just, I, I wrote to Matt after I produced that document, um, that we should be upping, I, I believe we should up our, our rate of 20 cents per kilowatt hour. Um, you know, when he picked that rate, the town's rate was, uh, about 6 cents and now we're at closer to 14 cents. You know, not, not that we're trying to make a make a killing here, but what are your thoughts on, on that? But I, you'll see, let me see, where are we?

Sam M: [\(57:13\)](#)

Yeah, I had, I had, um, a few weeks ago I was like, oh, we should, we should, I'd be curious to hear about if we're, you know, what we're getting out of the ev you know, stations not just in terms of dollars, but are people using them and if they're not using them, you know, what are some of the things that we can be doing? Um, so it might be useful just to have just, you know, to spend five minutes, you know, once a month kinda looking at this.

Dave B: [\(57:38\)](#)

Yeah, I can pull it up

Sam M: [\(57:39\)](#)

More than that.

Dave B: [\(57:40\)](#)

I can pull it up once a month. I can just do, I'll just add the most recent, I'll make a document just for the month there. There's some more, the dashboard has some other, you know, kind of whimsical things like how many trees were saved and

Sam M: [\(57:55\)](#)

. Um,

Dave B: [\(57:56\)](#)

Some other stuff that I can make and all this. I can literally just print the dashboard every, uh, for every meeting and just add it to the meeting materials.

Sam M: [\(58:05\)](#)

Yeah. If, if it's, if it's a summary of the past month, for example. Yeah. It's pretty simple. If there, there's, if there's trend, there's trend data that we can see too. Change again, we haven't had mm-hmm. ,

Richard: [\(58:16\)](#)

Can you change the rates that we're charging right on the dashboard? It

Dave B: [\(58:20\)](#)

Easy to do. I believe. I, yeah.

Richard: [\(58:22\)](#)

Yeah. Well then we should, we should be modifying those so that we're at least getting our, covering our costs kind lot.

Dave B: [\(58:28\)](#)

Yeah. I think we, I I think we were, you know, closer to doing that when we were 6 cents, but, uh, I, like I said to Matt, you know, we're closer to 14 cents not counting a delivery.

Sam M: [\(58:38\)](#)

Yeah.

Dave B: [\(58:38\)](#)

We're probably losing money.

Richard: [\(58:40\)](#)

Well, we should include what it is for including the delivery too.

Dave B: [\(58:44\)](#)

Yeah.

Richard: [\(58:45\)](#)

I mean this is, people are not gonna not charge their car because they're charge, we're paying, you know, their, their their, you know, their electric rates are high and they can sit there and be stranded or they can plug in, you know,

Dave B: [\(58:59\)](#)

I, I think I saw earlier today the average rate in Maine was like 22 cents. But you know, a lot of

people are just seeing increases on their bills. Um, this most recent cycle are going into January. I know I saw an increase on my CMP bill.

Richard: ([59:16](#))

Yeah,

Sam M: ([59:17](#))

We'll see

Richard: ([59:17](#))

It again. We're going up big time in January. There's a new standard offer, right? Mm-hmm. , it's going into effect.

Dave B: ([59:24](#))

Richard, do you have a com? You have that connection with that guy Moon in South Portland, right?

Richard: ([59:29](#))

Yeah.

Dave B: ([59:30](#))

I'd be wondering what, you know, if they're adjusting. Although, are there, are they, I don't think they're even charging in South Portland, are they?

Richard: ([59:37](#))

Yeah, they're, that's right. They weren't, well, they were two things. I talked to the person in Portland and I talked to the person in Portland I don't think was charging, and I'm not sure about Mo, I'm not sure about South Portland.

John V: ([59:52](#))

So Troy, south Troy, moon in ,

Sam M: ([59:57](#))

Take that floor. It's all you.

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

Troy, Troy Moon is in Portland. What he said it was, he was just covering his costs and they were, they passed on him. They were super low rates. So they were still on that, you know, single digit sense per per kilowatt hour to get kickstarted. And they were circling back around to address it as their rates were now going that they were getting for the town were now going up. And so I don't know what they currently are, but they were, they were, you know, they were dead cheap and they're were going up. All he was looking to doing was to cover costs.

Richard: ([01:00:28](#))

I think they should be at least what we're paying, including the delivery charge. And we should be monitoring it so that that's, as our rates go up, those rates go up and we should be at least covering what our electrical charges are until we figure out what a strategy's gonna be so that we can make some money on it.

Dave B: ([01:00:45](#))

So it's basically what I said to, uh, Matt, right, right before, uh, I left today is, you know, we gotta look at this again.

Sam M: ([01:00:54](#))

Is there a,

John V: ([01:00:55](#))

My gut instinct says go up to 22 cents on January one.

Sam M: ([01:01:03](#))

Yeah. And, and, and, and track it regularly. Maybe this, we even dashboard even you can, you can have the, the charge, you know, float, you know, based on kind somehow, you know, some sort of metric that it has access to.

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

I, I did a quick, quick look. Massachusetts average, you know, EV rates and they're gonna lag cuz the data's gonna, they're not gonna get updated when I'm little annoyed Google search, but they're 20 to 30 cents a kilowatt hour in Massachusetts. So my hunch is if you're in the, in the low to mid twenties and covering costs, you're fine.

Richard: ([01:01:40](#))

I don't know what the, what the capabilities of the software is, but there's all kinds of, um, and depending on what the software is, there's all kinds of, of ways you can structure your rate charges. And, uh, you know, before we get into that, I mean, one of the things Rodney, you understand is utilization. I mean, who's using, who's utilizing it, who's using it, and how often and what does, how does the community center one compare with what's going on with the, um, um, uh, Fort Williams?

Dave B: ([01:02:16](#))

Oh yeah. This was combined, but

Sam M: ([01:02:18](#))

Yeah, that's what I'd love to, I'd love to see that information.

John V: ([01:02:20](#))

I mean, it's the kind of thing, I don't know what they've got in the rates, but it's the kind of thing where you're actually like, okay, whatever it is, regardless if you, if you hook up to the machine, it's gonna be, you know, 10 bucks or, and then, and if you stay longer than a certain amount of

time, it's also gonna charge you, charge you, cuz you're taking up the space. Um,

Dave B: [\(01:02:37\)](#)

It's a primo spot too at Fort Williams. I mean, you're closer than some spots.

Richard: [\(01:02:44\)](#)

Yeah. Um, is the, the, the way the, um, the software is, uh, uh, structured or are they, are the two sides combined or are they separate? I,

Dave B: [\(01:02:54\)](#)

I can look at 'em. Um, either way I, the, the report is combined, but I can look at 'em separately.

Sam M: [\(01:03:02\)](#)

Can I, can I suggest maybe for a, a future meeting, um, we look at the dashboard together?

Dave B: [\(01:03:09\)](#)

Yeah, we can do that.

Sam M: [\(01:03:11\)](#)

That might be useful. That way we could all figure out can I, what it, what it can do. But it can tell us.

John V: [\(01:03:14\)](#)

Well then if you send it in advance to the meeting, we could also look at it and have

Sam M: [\(01:03:19\)](#)

It be static. It would be like snapshots.

Richard: [\(01:03:21\)](#)

Yeah. What's security for getting on the, what's the security for? Just accessing the dashboard.

Dave B: [\(01:03:28\)](#)

L my email on a password.

Sam M: [\(01:03:33\)](#)

And don't put that in the minutes. . . But I would, I would love it to be able to, to look over your shoulder as you kinda give us a tour of the da. Oh, what

Richard: [\(01:03:42\)](#)

I'm password, you know, one of the things, you know, maybe, maybe, you know, for instance, I'd be willing to look at that and just assemble some of that information. David,

Dave B: [\(01:03:50\)](#)

I'm happy, I'm happy to share that with you

Richard: ([01:03:53](#))

And just, you know, give me, I'm, if there's another multiple access so I could, you know, have another password, another name and assigned to it, then you know, I'd be happy to assemble that information cause just no sense burden you for it. Another thing,

Dave B: ([01:04:09](#))

Um, yeah. Yep. I'll connect with you, uh, tomorrow.

Sam M: ([01:04:12](#))

All right. Yeah. There's probably some way you can add a, add a user. I

Dave B: ([01:04:16](#))

Bet there definitely is.

Sam M: ([01:04:18](#))

I mean,

Richard: ([01:04:19](#))

Because when I was looking at that, I went through, um, all the different, uh, charging scenarios and possibilities with the various vendors, but I don't know what the current vendor software is capable of. I know what some of them are, but I don't know what this one is.

Dave B: ([01:04:41](#))

I don't, I haven't, I just look at the dashboard. I don't really even go into too much detail. So be happy to have someone who wants to dig in.

Richard: ([01:04:51](#))

Yeah, I'd be happy to look at that. So,

Dave B: ([01:04:54](#))

And yeah, I can, I can, I'm looking at it right now. I can add a user very easily.

Richard: ([01:04:58](#))

Okay.

Sam M: ([01:05:00](#))

Do I sense an action item that David will add Richard as a user to the dashboard for the ev charging system. And there then Richard will take, you know, drive, give it a drive and let us know what insights we can gather from it. And I think the other action item on this is that, um, we will, um, work to update the rate that we're, we're charging people over the next few weeks or just, just Yeah, just, yeah. We'll, you know, see, see that, see that the, um, the rate is, is reflective of at least what we're paying. I'm not sure if that needs to be emotion or not. It seems emotioning, but it's not really.

John V: [\(01:05:57\)](#)

We just capture in action. Him. That's fine. Yeah. Again, I think David and Matt have full authority to change the rich how they, like, we're just, I'm not sure we need to make a formal recommendation on it, but I would say since we know rates are gonna be going up January one, you might wanna indicate that the rates are going up on the EV chargers on, on January one.

Sam M: [\(01:06:17\)](#)

Mm-hmm. . Cool. Um, thanks David for, for pulling that dashboard up, um, and kinda set sending that, that information. Um, so yeah, I'm looking forward to seeing what we can, you know, what we can learn, you know, from going, going into that software. And particularly I'd like to know, uh, you know, what sort of usage, you know, are we getting how many, how many, you know, plugins are we seeing per month? I think the dash, the thing that you sent, David covers that. Um, but then also, is that, is that relatively poultry or is that really impressive? I don't know. I mean, I, my guess is the community center is not getting a whole lot of action and I don't think there's any signage, um, directing people, you know, on the road to use it. Um, so maybe we can Yeah. Um, and I think that one of the things in our contract with revision was that, that they would include signage, right? Um,

Dave B: [\(01:07:17\)](#)

It's at, at the station, like if you find the charger, there is signage, but there's like, this is

Sam M: [\(01:07:24\)](#)

The charger station. Yeah.

Dave B: [\(01:07:25\)](#)

There's nothing like indicating, you know, by seas salt, maybe like, you know, I don't know if the symbol is a green triangle or something that would, you know, alert you

Sam M: [\(01:07:34\)](#)

Mm-hmm. ,

Carrie: [\(01:07:37\)](#)

Are people using the one, um, in the, in the town center? Or do we, do we know if like one is,

Dave B: [\(01:07:47\)](#)

It's, I mean, if they, if there might be a random teacher, it's sort of an intimidating spot to even pull into, um, during the day. I mean, it's like in the student parking lot, it's, I I think it does get used, but I imagine there's a lot of people who literally maybe plug their car in and then leave it there for four hours. And I'm, I'm, I'm sure I could look at the data and find that out, you know, how long is someone plugged in for? But that'd be my guess is, I know there's like four or five teachers at the high school have EVs.

Richard: [\(01:08:18\)](#)

Yeah. So one of the, one of the charging routines was that once it's fully charged, we have to unplug. You start getting hit with a, um, a stationary charge, like, uh, 10, 20 bucks an hour, whatever. What do you want you to use? But the, the idea is, is to, is to, you know, encourage people to charge and then move on. Um, the other, I know the other, um, thing about that was the, uh, one of the things that happens with, with an EV charger is that you get to 80% and a charge is fast. When you go beyond 80%, the charge rate really slows down.

Dave B: [\(01:09:03\)](#)

Yeah. I goes

Richard: [\(01:09:04\)](#)

Massive to like one o'clock.

Dave B: [\(01:09:06\)](#)

Yeah. I think Walmart actually hits you after 80% with a, a, like it's free to 80 and then you, I think you get hit with a fee or a higher, like a much higher rate.

Richard: [\(01:09:17\)](#)

Right. So, you know, the a one of the, but all this needs to be, I mean, that's part of the signage. I mean, what, what we knew he needed to do is need to have a sign up there that that explains to people what the rates are and you know, what the, you know, what, what the ro what the rules of the game are so that they understand it. And that would have, you know, once we decide what our, what our strategy's gonna be, that needs to be posted. But the rates got

Dave B: [\(01:09:42\)](#)

An account rama.

Richard: [\(01:09:43\)](#)

Yeah. But Yeah. But the rates need to be on a, uh, chalkboard .

Speaker 7: [\(01:09:47\)](#)

Right. But I, I was gonna say again, we don't need to reinvent the wheel. If, if Walmart's got good signage and good policies, we can go copy off their paper . Yeah.

Sam M: [\(01:09:57\)](#)

Yeah. I think also people need to download an app Right. To to, to operate the, yeah. We're

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

We're

Sam M: [\(01:10:03\)](#)

Also device,

Richard: [\(01:10:04\)](#)

Do we know if we've been put on the, we're supposed to be, the sites are supposed to be identified on some website.

Dave B: [\(01:10:09\)](#)

They're on some website. I, I don't, I don't know. I, as an EV driver, I, I just know where they are. You know, like you, you go them on the Google Maps or something. We are on, we are on that. We were on it before we were even set up.

Richard: [\(01:10:28\)](#)

Okay.

Sam M: [\(01:10:31\)](#)

I know on those apps, um, you know, it, there are instructions about, you know, how much it costs and how to use it and that sort of thing. Um, so yeah, I, I, I imagine there's, you know, if if we're, if we're on, you know, one of those apps, um, we may be on others as well. And, um, yeah. So maybe most drivers who are looking for an ev you know, charger have that app. And so there's no real point in having physical signage, you know, along the road. Um, but it seems like it would be useful, you know, some say and anything just to kind of, you know, as sort of a, you know, to let any everybody else know, you know, that hey, you, we have these EV charging stations that, um, that we put in. Isn't that fantastic? Um, you know, many people were, were, and actually other, you know, gasoline, you know, engine driving, people would say, oh wow, our town has ev charging, you know, capacity. Maybe I'll, I won't be so scared next time I go shopping for a car. You know, I think that could be a benefit to having some signage. Um, but that's a slightly different conversation.

Richard: [\(01:11:41\)](#)

Have we gotten our rebate?

Dave B: [\(01:11:44\)](#)

Yes. Rebate came in.

Sam M: [\(01:11:47\)](#)

Yay. Good job.

Carrie: [\(01:11:51\)](#)

Well, I googled Kate Elizabeth charging station and our two sites came up on a map. So

Sam M: [\(01:11:58\)](#)

Same here. Awesome.

Carrie: [\(01:12:00\)](#)

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

Good. Oh good. And I'm, uh, I also opened up the, the app and I see, I see it here. And, um, yeah, I see some, there's a, there's a picture somebody, you know, using.

John V: ([01:12:15](#))

It's by your face, otherwise you're blurry cuz

Sam M: ([01:12:18](#))

You're blur your, yeah. Oh yeah. I, anyway, it says, yeah, if you required 20 cents, these are ev these are connect networked on the EV connect network and parking is free. So someone wrote that they're on the EV connect network. Um, yeah, so actually getting, we're getting some people using it, which is nice. They check in anyway, so that works. That's cool. Anyway, well thanks David for, for that. I don't know if there any action items, uh, that we haven't captured yet from the EV part, but I'm grateful for your preparing that information for us.

Speaker 5: ([01:12:53](#))

Mm-hmm. ,

Sam M: ([01:12:56](#))

Um, anything else on that, on that topic? Moving on. Um, and I think we can, we can kind, you know, plow through some of these, A lot of these are kind of all in the same, but now town engagement and climate planning I think are not necessarily the same thing. But, you know, I know they're, they're, um, combined. I know, uh, Jeremy Gabrielson was kind of reelected as, um, chair of the town council, um, at the last meeting, I believe. Um, and he's, you know, he's, he's been a supporter, you know, of our work. So that gives us, you know, at least a good, um, you know, company, you know, point, point of contact for our work. I know, John, you've always had a lot, you know, some really good, good things to say about timing around engaging tower council. And

John V: ([01:13:43](#))

Look, I, I think big progress forward that Nicole Boucher is the contact for the solar field with Richard. Mm-hmm. , which is great. Um, I hope that the town decides to coordinate annual goals with its committees this year. And again, what I would say is around climate or energy or any of the goals that may, uh, be town level or, um, in coordination with the town to re to really make an impact, they need to allocate in their budget either personnel time or dollars to, to that goal and it, and being able to track it. Cuz if you don't allocate personnel time and or money to get it done, it won't happen. And, you know, we've done a lot with almost zero budget and it's, but it's been rough sledding, you know,

Sam M: ([01:14:41](#))

And as far as encouraging, you know, those, those, those pieces to line up. But is there any pressure that we can, that we need to

John V: ([01:14:49](#))

Know why? What I would suggest is that we again, ask to present at a town council meeting

soon and say, can we coordinate goals? If you want to have goals that coordinate with the energy committee around climate or around energy usage or anything like that, we're interested to coordinate with you. And also if these are goals are important to meet, we wanna know what personnel and what dollars are you allocating to make it happen. But I think we need to get in front of them and tell 'em that, I mean, if we'd have had a halftime project manager assigned to this solar project, we would've in better shape all around. But they would, you know, that was not in their budget.

John V: ([01:15:42](#))

You know, they didn't allocate any dollars of personnel to make it happen. And so we can only take it so far, which is what happened. Same with the EV charger, same with anything we've touched. So, and I, you know, the climate planning one, the first step is decide you want to have one, and then you gotta do the outreach piece and there's dollars out there to go get, but you know, you, you gotta spend the money to get the money. You gotta have someone who's gonna write grants and have 'em, you know, that doesn't fall from the sky. There's a lot you can do with volunteers, but you may need to pay someone to organize and run your volunteers. So

Dave B: ([01:16:29](#))

On that, on that topic, um, so we use competitive energy on the school and the town to like help broker our energy contract or like the electrical contract. Um, that guy was saying that, you know, we would need someone to manage the, the credits, energy credits. And that's a service that they do. Um, you know, they take the revenue out of, you know, they, they pay themselves out of, you know, the savings somehow, but

John V: ([01:16:54](#))

Energy credits on what?

Dave B: ([01:16:56](#))

On the solar field.

John V: ([01:16:58](#))

So right now, encore's doing that.

Dave B: ([01:17:01](#))

Oh, they're gonna, they're gonna manage it for us.

John V: ([01:17:03](#))

That, that's part of, we did not, our pricing did not include energy credits. We would get, get them back when we buy the project out after seven years.

Dave B: ([01:17:12](#))

Oh, okay. Gotcha.

Carrie: [\(01:17:13\)](#)

Yeah. I don't, I don't think that we need anyone to manage anything. Um, because what's gonna happen is we are going to pay, um, Encore for, uh, we're gonna have more bills, I think. Cause we're gonna have a bill to encore from Encore for the, um, output of the solar project. But then on the C M P bill, you're gonna be receiving monetary credits for the generation from that. So there, there, there'll be two bills, but no one needs, we don't need to hire competitive energy services to manage that. Um, gotcha.

John V: [\(01:17:55\)](#)

There are no unattached solar credits floating around. I'm sure people would like them, but they aren't there.

Carrie: [\(01:18:03\)](#)

Yeah, we, we, they're probably, they may have been talking about the renewable energy credits associated with the project, but we are not getting those. Um,

Dave B: [\(01:18:11\)](#)

Gotcha. Yeah, he didn't have the full details. Uh, yeah.

John V: [\(01:18:19\)](#)

So what agenda item are we on now?

Sam M: [\(01:18:22\)](#)

Uh, the town engagement? I was kinda on

John V: [\(01:18:24\)](#)

Engagement.

Sam M: [\(01:18:24\)](#)

Yeah. I was kinda looking through the transcript. Um, it was actually super helpful to have. Um, and we were talking about having, you know, speaking to a town council meeting in January, it would be a good, good, a good time, you know, to get in front of them. Mm-hmm. , um, and the informal conversation with, um, uh, Jeremy, you know, would be useful to have an anticipation of that. Um, and before that, and I know we, I know we had talk about maybe having him come to a future meeting. He's not here at this one obviously, um, but maybe we can have a sidebar conversation with him, um, or have him come to the next one and then, you know, we talk in February. Um, but, um, but that, that doesn't make sense that January would be a good time to have, you know, a, um, you know, an audience with town council, you know, just to, to, to raise these issues, these issues meaning like, Hey, you know, let's line these goals. This is what we wanna do. Um, so I know as far as kinda getting on the agenda for our town council, um, it's probably just a function of telling, telling Matt, Hey, you know, we have something to say, but I know we also wants probably, you know, be, have a chance to, to gather our thoughts, uh, before, before the next one. I'm not sure what the next time council meeting is. Um, John, do you know

John V: ([01:19:48](#))

Jan? Jan? January 4th.

Sam M: ([01:19:49](#))

January. And that agenda's already, already kind of, you know, full up.

John V: ([01:19:54](#))

Right? Right. But I, I, I think going to the next one would be worthwhile.

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

Mm-hmm. , what day is that one? Do you know?

John V: ([01:20:03](#))

It'll be the next month. It'll be probably early February.

Sam M: ([01:20:06](#))

I'm not sure when. Oh, monthly. Okay. Got it. Got it. Well, let's, let's, um, we'll be our next, our next meeting as a committee is

John V: ([01:20:17](#))

January 19th.

Sam M: ([01:20:19](#))

19th. Got it.

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

And then presenting to the town council at the February meeting would make sense.

Sam M: ([01:20:24](#))

Yeah. Okay. And to, it seems like it makes sense to have an agenda item again for next month where we are having a conversation with, with whoever from the council, you know, is able to come. Gabrielson makes like, it'd be a good choice. Um, kinda and use that portion of the meeting to, to our

John V: ([01:20:45](#))

And or Nicole

Sam M: ([01:20:46](#))

And or Nicole. Right. Whoever, whoever's the best person. Both would

John V: ([01:20:51](#))

Be, both would be fine.

Sam M: [\(01:20:53\)](#)

Mm-hmm. . Yeah. And or for sure. Um, so I recommend, I, I, again, that's not emotion, but I say for the next, you know, we, you know, have an agenda item where we are having conversation, so I'd actually put

John V: [\(01:21:09\)](#)

That. But, so what I would say is the action item coming out of this discussion is you as Chairman Sam, email the, the all the town council and basically request time at their February meeting and ask the Jeremy and or Nicole come for part of the, our January meeting, Nick, our January meeting. And if they want color to that, you can basically say, we'd like to talk about what we, what we've done in the last year and how we plan for the FU next year going forward.

Sam M: [\(01:21:45\)](#)

That's reasonable to me. That all sound sound reasonable to folks. Okay. Cool. On, um, great. I think the, um, the climate planning will be, I think, you know, it is reasonable that that that conversation, you know, we can table that until the next, um, uh, the next next meeting. Unless someone has something specific on the climate planning part, they wanna share. Now

John V: [\(01:22:11\)](#)

This is our last chance to pick Carrie's brain on this. She's gonna disappear.

Sam M: [\(01:22:15\)](#)

I know climate and carries part of the main

Carrie: [\(01:22:18\)](#)

All council think that, I think that the work of this committee has been incredibly hard because there is no town climate goal. Yeah. And I, I don't actually, I, I don't even know if it's really the work of this committee, but I think the town needs to have a climate goal. Um, and like all of these things we're talking about, like whether or not we wanna have a sign for EV chargers at this point, we don't have an idea that the town cares if anyone has an EV or not. Like the, I I think it's like, should we buy the recs? Like every decision, everything we've done have been made harder because we don't have a clinical. And, um, so that's, that's what else I I think it's, I think it's hugely important and I think it's, we're at the point in time as well that it's starting to be embarrassing that we don't have one. Um, and

John V: [\(01:23:17\)](#)

can I, can I ask you to come to the February meeting if we're able to present it? That, to say exactly that, that would be really helpful.

Carrie: [\(01:23:25\)](#)

Yeah. Uh, yeah, definitely. Um, cause and, and yeah, it's, it's just, I mean, it's probably part of the reason I decided not to keep going on the committee. Cause it was too, it was too annoying that we didn't have a climate goal and we were do just sort of randomly trying to do things. Um, it's, it would be, it's just it's way past the time for us to have one. Um,

John V: [\(01:23:52\)](#)

Yep. Great.

Sam M: [\(01:23:53\)](#)

Well hopefully, hopefully we'll have some, some, some sympathetic years at the February time council meeting when we present on this and let them know that that what we're doing is really cut me much more difficult.

John V: [\(01:24:04\)](#)

Well, this, this also, this also comes up all, you know, in the recent bond rating discussions around school stuff, it's like if you have it, it's a significant plus. And climate risk is one of the things even bond rating agencies are looking at. And we're way behind.

Carrie: [\(01:24:22\)](#)

We are also, we also live on a peninsula, we're very exposed to climate, we're we, um, I don't know. It's, and, and our neighbors like Portland and South Portland are doing so much. It's um, you know, like South Portland has programs to buy an electric bike and all kinds of things.

John V: [\(01:24:47\)](#)

Electrify everything.

Carrie: [\(01:24:48\)](#)

Yeah.

John V: [\(01:24:49\)](#)

We've kinda gotta electrify nothing.

Carrie: [\(01:24:51\)](#)

I, I live on the South Portland line and so I, my route if I go into to Portland is to go right by the, their, um, town building where they have the EV chargers and all of those signs outside. And um, uh, they're, they're just doing so much. I think it wouldn't take a lot for us to come up with a, for people, Elizabeth, to have a climate plan. Like we could start with, we wanna, you know, decarbonize by, by 2050. We could just say that, that that could be a start and then you could get more specific. But, um, we need to do something.

John V: [\(01:25:29\)](#)

I, I think being able to state what a, a reasonable starting point is, like you just did, is very helpful. Will be very helpful to the committee. And the other thing is you need to be, we need to be able to help explain to some of the council members, here's what happens if you don't do that. And the answer is, you get none of the planning money, you get none of the, um, grant money to do these projects as it comes down the pipeline. We already missed out on stuff. And your risk doesn't get any better. Your benefits don't get any better. You know, time and time again, it's shown that you actually get more by being toward the front end of the curve. And

we're not, we're, we're, we're behind, but we, we can catch up.

Richard: ([01:26:21](#))

Um, I, um, ni uh, Niko sent a, um, a link out for a, a meeting, uh, a web meeting on the IR ira, ira and, uh, I attended that. I logged into that a couple weeks ago

John V: ([01:26:37](#))

Mm-hmm.

Richard: ([01:26:39](#))

And the things I got out of it were, one, there's a tremendous amount of money that's available for a virtually any kind of projects you want. Um, it is, it is very involved because the program is so big to find out what you can apply for and how to apply for it. Um, but it's, it would be well worth it if the town could do that. But to me, the, the program is so massive and it, the links are so complicated that it almost takes a full-time job to do that.

Carrie: ([01:27:25](#))

Well, there's gotta be some companies who have figured that out and are offering assistance to towns. Like when I was, um, started my career, I was an environmental engineer and I worked for a big engineering company and all of our clients were, um, cities and towns. And, and we were, we hadn't like half of the cities and towns in Massachusetts. So when a new thing came out, we figured it out and then we went, we sold our solution to, to all of our clients because that's, that's what you do. So I, I wonder, I don't know who the companies are who might be able to, um, help with this, but it seems like there's gotta be, I actually have, a colleague of mine is on the energy committee in Wellesley, mass, and they've hired someone to do the climate, um, plan for not Wellsley Weston. Um, so obviously Weston has a fair amount of money, , but Wellsley, Tim and Wellsley both. But Weston's the one that Chris is on the, the, the committee for and um, so that, that there are consultants who are sort of specializing in this for towns.

John V: ([01:28:37](#))

Yeah. There, there, there are towns that are not much bigger than Cape Elizabeth. Like Falmouth for example, I met the recent new hire sustainability director for Falmouth. She lives in Cape.

Carrie: ([01:28:53](#))

Oh yeah, you mentioned that. Yeah.

John V: ([01:28:54](#))

Well my point is Falmouth is not, I mean, Portland is several times bigger than us. Port South Portland's about double, but Falmouth isn't, is, you know, 20% bigger and they have a full-time sustainability director.

Carrie: ([01:29:09](#))

Yeah. Falmouth seems to be more proactive about planning. Like, I don't know if you have No, by quite a, quite a large margin, uh, because I don't know if you've noticed, like they, they have put out, um, they have put out stuff about their like bicycle and pedestrian planning that they're doing and it's very like, it's very spot on. Um, cuz when we were looking for our house and we ended up here, but we looked in Falmouth and part of the reason we didn't end up there is I was like, there's too many, like, there's too many places that didn't feel safe biking, but they have actually put out a plan to address, um, a lot of them. Um, so I, I think, yeah, Falmouth is probably twice the size of Cape Elizabeth though, right? It's it's a lot bigger, isn't it?

Sam M: [\(01:29:57\)](#)

White area? Certainly

John V: [\(01:29:59\)](#)

No Pop population is just a few thousand more.

Carrie: [\(01:30:03\)](#)

Huh? They have a, they have a lot bigger tax base though because of all the um,

John V: [\(01:30:10\)](#)

Actually not that much bigger. That really, huh. Well again, commercial, it's a misnomer. Unless you've got giant commercial, commercial does only contributes about, you know, maybe 20, 30% of your tax base. They got Walmart and McDonald's. Um,

Carrie: [\(01:30:28\)](#)

I'm

John V: [\(01:30:28\)](#)

Curious, but if you go and look through at the breakout of commercial versus real estate, it's not nothing. It's important, it makes a difference, but it's not like, it's not like a half no one's, no one's com the tax base is coming half from commercial. It's all a much smaller number than that.

Sam M: [\(01:30:48\)](#)

And I, and I just, I David, I saw, I saw your, uh, thing you put on the, uh, the text, which is great. Um, I also just wanted to share something that, um, I had asked Sarah Naapp Mills, who is the GP Cog, um, climate coordinator, who also, I'm not climate, I think, I'm not sure what all she does there. Um, but I think she's also a Cape resident and, um, she does a lot of stuff with GP Cog and, um, and they know about this stuff. I mean, this is kind, I think we pay money, you know, into GP Cog to have access to their, their, you know, their resources

Carrie: [\(01:31:21\)](#)

Helping, like do they reach out to towns proactively or is that like only,

Sam M: [\(01:31:35\)](#)

I don't, you know, I, they apparently I'll still, they offer climate action action planning services. Uh, they have be requested by the town staff and does have a service fee associated with them. So I'm not sure the service fee, if it's, if it's, you know, significant. Yeah, it's all relative obviously. Um, but they do this and they, um, she told me they're starting a climate action planning process with Yarmouth in Freeport this fall. Um, meaning like, you know, you know, basically now, um, so, so they're doing that. I think it's, it's, it's, yeah, it's well worth at least following up with with them. It has to come from the town. So does that come from Matt? Does that come from you uk Does that come from town council? You know, when I, when I mentioned this to, um, Matt, gosh, a year ago, um, it kind of got stuck in like, oh, well do we, we need to get a budget for this.

Sam M: ([01:32:28](#))

And, you know, there's other stuff that, that's kind of competing for his attention. So, you know, maybe this comes this conversation with when we talked to Jeremy, you know, next month. Um, or maybe, maybe David, you can help, you can talk to Matt about this or we can have a conversation with him on the side. But, you know, again, we need to, we, we need to initiate a conversation with GP Cog around the service that they provide. Um, because, you know, as, as we all know, and as you know, Carrie made it very clear, we need a climate action plan. And the fact that we don't is bit embarrassing . I,

John V: ([01:33:03](#))

I like the, her phrasing, it makes everything we're trying to do harder.

Sam M: ([01:33:07](#))

Yeah. Right. Yeah. Well, and leaving money on the table, obviously by not being on top of this. Yeah.

Carrie: ([01:33:13](#))

The other thing is, is that I think the towns who have plans get money. Like, so my parents have a summer place on North Haven and North Haven figured that out. And now they've got this whole community planning process. They've got, uh, three spheres. One is around housing, one is around climate, and there's the third one. I can't remember what it's about. But, um, anyway, they've got, like, we've got, they've been serving everyone, um, you know, year round summer residents. We've been getting emails from the town, um, uh, the town administrator and um, that's obviously a much smaller community, um, than Cap Elizabeth. Um, but the whole reason is that, uh, um, they, they wanna be ready to get whatever funding is out there. Um, and the way to do that is to have a plan and have prayer like goals and stuff. And then when you apply for funding, you can say, this is in line with our goal or whatever. Probably doesn't hurt to have a Yeah. US House of Representatives person living on your right.

Sam M: ([01:34:23](#))

. You're right. I know. Exactly. It's like, it should, it should. This, this won't happen. Not be hard. Cause once we get some traction, um,

John V: [\(01:34:30\)](#)

The thing I kept seeing also is like, there's money and grants available for planning, but you actually have to like do the planning and then after you do the planning, then you have things that are ready for the other money that's available. Yeah. But you know, you have to have grant and planning staff dedicated to doing it. As I was saying, just personnel time and dollars or, or a consultant who's doing it for you. It's like you can't, it doesn't, yeah.

Carrie: [\(01:34:56\)](#)

Once, I don't remember who suggested this, but someone suggested, uh, and I don't even remember if it was related to the town of Cable Elizabeth, but someone suggested there's like AmeriCorps, um, uh, programs that you can tap into to get someone, you know, obviously they would be not super experienced, but get someone who would work for the town for a year or two on sort of a, um, discounted rate who would just be dedicated to this kind of thing. And, um, I think someone from York had done that. I feel like I met someone at a conference who was telling me about this idea. Um,

Sam M: [\(01:35:40\)](#)

Yeah. And that, I think, and that, I think that GB Cog, they kind of host that person and I think that's, you know, part of their, the GB cog service is like to, to provide, uh, part of that person's time, you know, to, you know, to their town is that, that wanna contribute, you know, to covering that, that person's staff. Um, but there may be some other person, but yeah, I know that that was one of the things that you'd be talking to us is they, they, they, uh, they they hired Ruin AmeriCorps person. Um, I think it was just a summer, you know, it seemed like a very small slice of, but,

Carrie: [\(01:36:12\)](#)

But I think like we could have one for a whole year was the idea. Mm-hmm. just working in Cape Elizabeth who's focusing on that or you know, something. But it's very interesting that ETH really isn't that much bigger than Cap. I thought it was much bigger. Um,

Sam M: [\(01:36:31\)](#)

Yeah. You know, I'm just, this, this thing 30 step bigger Yeah. Um, community action grants and we, I think we can kind of, you know, move, move on to this with, with some action items. But the community action grants, you know, they don't require local, you know, local match at all. Some of them do, um, to support some kind of more, you know, unusual or custom, you know, climate energy implementation priorities. But for those that align with the state climate action plan, you know, they're just grants, you know, just like, you know, no, no, um, strings attached. Um, we just have to, you know, put our name on the list and, and apply for it. Um, and again, this all has to do with, you know, bandwidth and it's, you know, it's just, it's just gotta, you know, generate the attention that, that, uh, is necessary to kind of just, you know, keep this on, on the, on the list. Um, and clearly, I mean, if the Town Council doesn't have any sort of real set priorities around this, then you know, no one's gonna be looking at it.

John V: [\(01:37:33\)](#)

I keep coming back to the conclusion that even if it's only for energy, and I know there's more as well, you could have a halftime or even full-time grants person pay for themselves.

Sam M: ([01:37:48](#))

Yes.

John V: ([01:37:51](#))

Certainly over two years, if not in the first year.

Sam M: ([01:37:54](#))

Mm-hmm. .

John V: ([01:37:58](#))

So again, if the, goes back to having a climate goal, and the other thing I said about goals, you have to, if you want it to happen, town council, allocate personnel time and budget to it. It doesn't have to be a lot, but it can't be zero.

Sam M: ([01:38:12](#))

Gotta be on someone's list to be tracking the staff

John V: ([01:38:17](#))

Well, and the resources to do it. Yeah. Yeah. Someone paid to come in and do that job day in, day out. Mm-hmm.

Sam M: ([01:38:23](#))

. Mm-hmm. . Um, anyway, yeah, I think

Carrie: ([01:38:28](#))

David has several notes about zero bandwidth on the, on the side of the town staff, which I think is the big problem, right? Mm-hmm. , like it's been, that's our other big problem. Aside from the, um, the not having a climate goal, the other big problem is that the town doesn't have bandwidth to really take on some of these projects. And so,

John V: ([01:38:51](#))

Well, that's why I keep coming back to the budget goals and budgets go together. Yeah,

Sam M: ([01:38:58](#))

Yeah. We'll hear that I'm sure from Jeremy that Yeah. And again, and, and, and obviously we're hearing directly from David, he was like, you know, right in, in the trenches every single day. But, um, yeah, bandwidth is clearly an issue. So yeah, if we can, if we can encourage the town to, you know,

John V: ([01:39:15](#))

But again, if I, I, it would be great if the town decides to have a climate goal in coordinate with

the energy committee, but honestly, if they don't actually allocate someone's personnel time or, and, and budget to that in their goal setting and budgeting process, I'm not, that will not be that much more optimistic. I mean, again, it doesn't have to be a lot, but it cannot be zero. I mean, they do this all the time on a project basis. They hired a consultant to help run the housing study. You know, it was not a non, you know, zero number that was like, you know, 50 50 grand ish. I don't remember exactly what the number is for the consultant to come in and help run the housing study with the committee. They had professional staff help the volunteers who, and do the stuff so that you can leverage the, the volunteers and community outreach. That's the same thing you would need on the climate side, whether it's a consultant or a full-time person. Um, but that, that's part of what, if you have the goal, then you gotta to resource the goal.

Sam M: ([01:40:26](#))

So,

Carrie: ([01:40:28](#))

And I think \$50,000 would get you like a, a good start on a climate plan. Mm-hmm. , um, it, it wouldn't be like, you know, you wouldn't be decarbonizing, , everything. Uh, but, but you would, it would get, I think you could get the, the basics of a plan. So to start with that

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

For sure, because to, to me it would be like, okay, year one goal, get planning money, grant , it's like develop the roadmap. It's like, and that's it in year two is like, then we're gonna start going after the, these things after that. But yeah, so, so Great, Carrie, we'll love to hope. See you hopefully, uh, at the meeting where, where the energy committee presents and talks about goals with town council, hopefully. Sure,

Richard: ([01:41:17](#))

Yeah.

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

Yeah. And there's definitely money for this out there. We just have to put the, you know, put, put, put lay lay it out, um, you know, to the council and say, Hey, this is how you get this money. These are the dots you follow. It's like basically one of those, you know, kind coloring books with like, the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 . He's kinda draw line. She's like, wow, we have a bunch of new money now because we just like followed the dots. Um, obviously not that simple, but I seems lucky. Um, anyway, I did, I would definitely wanna keep this meeting under the two hour, um, limit. I think we've kind of set ourselves, think we're getting close. Um, so takeaways from this part, I'm wanting to reach out to, um, town council request time on the meeting in February and ask, um, one or more town counselors to join us next, uh, the next meeting, um, where we want to, um, you know, share with them, you know, our, our thoughts to date and, um, you know, give them a sense of what we tr want to try to accomplish at the February meeting. Does that sound good? Mm-hmm.

John V: ([01:42:25](#))

.

Sam M: ([01:42:26](#))

Okay.

Richard: ([01:42:26](#))

Uh, in our January meeting, we better discuss then what we're going to ask.

Sam M: ([01:42:33](#))

Yeah, well, I was wondering, do we, you know, at that, at, at that meeting then we'll have at least the ear of, of a counselor, hopefully sh is it, is it worth probably, you know, putting some things together before then, right? So we, well,

Richard: ([01:42:47](#))

The, the counselor, I mean, um, she was identified just as the contact for the EV project.

Sam M: ([01:42:53](#))

Yeah. So,

Richard: ([01:42:54](#))

So she's not, she's not doing everything right. So you know, her, what she volunteered for, we agreed with was that basically there's, there's the, the three people that are going to be involved to make sure the EV project gets going.

John V: ([01:43:10](#))

The solar project,

Richard: ([01:43:11](#))

The solar project, the field project. That's what her charge is and that's what she's thinking about. So she's not necessarily gonna be the one, unless she wants to be, unless she volunteers to expand her role. Um, you know, she's not gonna be the one to, to carry what we're talking about here.

Sam M: ([01:43:32](#))

Unless she wants to be . We can, we can Yeah. Ask, ask somebody to be that person.

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

Right now we got zero involvement, so any we get is, I'm good with, so,

Richard: ([01:43:47](#))

But, but my point is, if we're going to have them and we need to have it focused, what we're gonna ask them for.

John V: [\(01:43:54\)](#)

I, I agree. I agree. I, I think when we meet in January, we should be talking about what we wanna present on February and they can, you know, and as, as what that's, that's the front loaded part of the discussion and like my thought was part of what we're gonna present is here's what we've done and here's what we're thinking about going forward. And that has to do with coordinating goals with you and making sure those goals, um, you know, and hopefully those goals will be matched with, um, support in the budget through personnel or other allocation and or

Sam M: [\(01:44:36\)](#)

Yeah. I just need to be more does it at, at, for the meeting in January, you know, where we're, you know, I think having a more informal conversation, you know, with them, does it, do we, do we want to ha you know, come with, you know, a more prescribed, you know, set of, you know, tabulate, you know, goals and outcomes for, for February? Um, you know, or can we,

Richard: [\(01:44:57\)](#)

I think we need to have, I think it needs to be very limited and very focused.

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

Mm-hmm. . Yeah. Well, yeah. It'll be, yeah, we don't wanna keep them for two hours.

Richard: [\(01:45:09\)](#)

Yeah. Right. And you know, maybe the discussions January, in January we talk about it, but maybe it's just we need to have a climate. What have we been looking for a climate strategy? And that needs to be this, you know, the first step we're looking for is this, just take baby steps and get something accomplished. Get something under our belt and then let it expand. And I'd even be in favor of saying somebody on this committee take the charge and take the lead and, and get some money, you know, follow one of these things through and get some money that we can actually show, see we've done this and we got X number of dollars and this is what we wanna do with it. You know,

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

I, um,

Richard: [\(01:46:02\)](#)

We can't leave it open-ended, you know, it's gotta be focused.

John V: [\(01:46:05\)](#)

So my, my resist hesitancy that that approach, Richard, is I agree with that, that the hesitancy is, I really feel it's gotta be on the town's nickel to make this happen. Because what happened is, with the EV thing you did that you went out and got the money and then there was no one on the town side that ha handed off to who had, you know, background or skin in the game to make it happen. It was just an extra thing for people for them to do. And so we still had the bird dog it forward. Like I said, if, if there had been budgeting the money, you know, money in the

budget to have someone to actually have staff or a consultant help drive that project forward, we would've been much better off. And they would've actually probably paid more attention to it cuz they were actually spending it.

John V: [\(01:46:49\)](#)

And there would've been an internal staff person who had to report on it to the town. And, and so we've sort of done that volunteer thing before and executed and I wanna learn the lesson and say, no, you now's the time we've done that. Let's learn from that. Bring it in-house. If you want to keep going, you gotta set goals and put some dollars behind making them happen. And we can do that and you can leverage or still leverage our expertise, but you've gotta own it. We've gotta have staff and other, you know, capability that we're gonna work alongside and hand out to for planning for grants for any projects you wanna do. That's what I would,

Richard: [\(01:47:27\)](#)

But, but the thing is that the, what's gonna come back then is how much, and for what, what are we gonna get for our money? How much money do you want and what are we gonna get for it?

John V: [\(01:47:39\)](#)

Okay.

Richard: [\(01:47:40\)](#)

I mean it's, you know, what you said I agree with, but it's open-ended and I think, you know, they're gonna say, fine, we'll approve \$10,000 to do this.

John V: [\(01:47:50\)](#)

So

Richard: [\(01:47:51\)](#)

What I I'm not gonna approve \$10,000 for something that you're not going to, you haven't defined

John V: [\(01:47:56\)](#)

What, what I, what I would think could be valuable is just getting a ballpark number or estimate from people like, um, Julie and Troy and Troy, it's Portland to South Portland and say, we're gonna get started. What would put us in the ballpark? What would be a reasonable sort of level of personnel or consultant to hire and for what money? And just put us in the ballpark and then that's, that's probably good enough. And what we need is a consultant that will develop a crime strategy for us. We think it's gonna cost around x and we, and alongside that, I still think they should hire a grants, uh, uh, at least a part-time grants person to drive grants for, for climate and other things in the town forward cuz it'll pay for itself.

Sam M: [\(01:48:44\)](#)

I didn't ask, I'll ask, um, Sarah from kind of what their, their co their, their fee is.

John V: [\(01:48:49\)](#)

Is that, is that defined enough, Richard?

Richard: [\(01:48:52\)](#)

Well, I mean it, you still gotta, all right. It, it's defined. If you go to South Portland and you ask 'em how much money do we need and who is it? And then that's what we take to the meeting. We say, this is what we want, you know, we, we wanna hire a consultant and we can do it. South Portland says we can do it for this amount of money and this is what they're gonna tell us when we get done. So, you know, doing the homework at South Portland or Portland first to take, you know, concrete numbers to the meeting is I think what we need.

John V: [\(01:49:27\)](#)

Great. I'm happy to volunteer to call TR Troy and, and or Julie who I don't know as well. I've only met her once. Um, and just try and get something like that.

Carrie: [\(01:49:38\)](#)

I think a lot of towns too start with um, some of just like literally setting the goals. Like I just looked up Weston cuz I knew my colleague had work there. So they're, they're like, they have goals, um, a hundred percent renewable energy for municipal operations by 2035, 50% reduction in G H G emissions by 2035 in the residential and commercial sectors and zero net carbon emissions by 2050. And they say they came up with those goals because they're aligned with state goals and climate science. So it seems like Cape Elizabeth needs to set some of those numbers. Um, and some of that I don't, could be done without any consultants just just, just saying, well the state of Maine has these goals, we wanna at least achieve those. We don't wanna be like, this is the town that's admitting all the emission. Like, you know, we at least wanna do that or, or we wanna be ahead of that. It's, it's some of,

John V: [\(01:50:46\)](#)

So that makes sense. I think we could basically say as a baseline, we're gonna set climate goals that are at a minimum in line with the state of Maine when a hire consultant to develop a climate strategy will meet those goals or tell us we should be more aggressive and how to meet those goals over the next year. And we could get some ballpark numbers for what that would cost.

Richard: [\(01:51:14\)](#)

I mean, you know, I think that, you know, just what Carrie's saying even we just did what copied what they said. You just had a list and said, you know, this is what our climate, you know, this is what we think our first set of climate goals should be. And just, and then say get the town council to agree with and say next we're gonna do is we're gonna, we're gonna get numbers to hire a consultant to find out what it's gonna take to get us started on this. Right. And then once they've agreed to the steps, then we're also saying right here the steps and we're gonna take money and we'll come back with what it's gonna cost. And so that's the first step I would think that they would, would they'd find acceptable. Then after we do some research, then we go

back with 'em with some money and say this is what it's gonna cost for a consultant, you know, and roughly how much money it's gonna cost.

John V: [\(01:52:07\)](#)

I I agree with you. The challenge is they're gonna start putting their budget numbers together sooner rather than later. So even getting out there with some sort of plug figure will help us, cuz they may not finalize that budget till the end of March or you know, April or whenever they're gonna do their budget. But if we're up and standing in front of the council saying put in something ballpark like 50, you know, \$50,000 to, to hire a consultant to do the climate plan, that climate plan will happen that year. If not, it's gonna happen next year.

Sam M: [\(01:52:43\)](#)

Yeah. I think yeah, getting, I I, I hear both of you guys, I think, you know, Richard's point having a very specific ask will go a long way as opposed to being, you know, squishy about it. And so yeah, I think getting some, getting some numbers. Um, again, I just wrote, you know, Sarah, um, she be cog asked what is, she said Cumberland actually did it themselves and she'd be happy to make a re um, an introduction. So I said I'd, you know, welcome the conversation with someone in Cumberland, um, and their committee and see kinda, you know, what, you know, what what it took for for them to do it again. I think we just, you know, wanna again, not reinvent the wheel, right? I mean there's, there's a, there are lots of towns like us, um, that are have already done what we want to do. And um, you know, again, it's, it's, it's not um, you know, it's not something that we, we can't easily come, you know, lift, you know, come copy and paste is the process at least. Um, and if we can do that, you know, with the town's, um, you know, hopefully have some, some, you know, moderate resources, um, you know, I'm sure we'll also be small,

John V: [\(01:53:46\)](#)

But I I'm focused on Richard's, Richard's concrete steps cuz we're going forward and saying we wanna do this and we spend it to this and we spend it to this mm-hmm. , which I think is the right approach, but all I'm saying is we gotta get that nu if you want the want it to actually happen this year. We gotta get a some number in that budget

Sam M: [\(01:54:02\)](#)

Yeah.

John V: [\(01:54:02\)](#)

During their budget process.

Sam M: [\(01:54:04\)](#)

Yeah. Yeah. And if we, if we get in front of town council in, in February, um, will that put us in a good, in good spot for

John V: [\(01:54:12\)](#)

That? Well I guess Richard, that's my point is like at least we could, I think we could follow

exactly the steps you said, but we gotta put 'em in the ballpark otherwise a money won't be there.

Richard: ([01:54:21](#))

Well I think, you know, if if our January meeting we establish, we just come up with climate goals mm-hmm. , we say this is what we're gonna present to the town and uh, tell 'em that, you know, and it's gonna take some money and that's, and if, you know, once we get, once we agree on the goals in, in, in our January meeting mm-hmm. , then someone should be able to take the that information and go to whoever and come up with a number from, from South Broad or somebody because we're saying, here's our goals, you know, what is it gonna take to started on these goals? And so then at the meeting that we have with the town council for members in February, we'd have, these are the goals, do you agree with them or not agree with them? And this is how much it's gonna cost to get started and that's what we're gonna need to approve. So we have it all in February, but we just have to establish concrete goals and then between the time we establish concrete goals, somebody has to go out and find out right, how much it's gonna cost to get started. And so we can have that information in February. I think.

John V: ([01:55:35](#))

I think again, yeah, I i I think the, the, the way Carrie was approaching it earlier as well is like if you just say, look, we could, we're pulling just here's the state of angles and we're gonna make, make CAPE compliant with those. And actually I think the, the cape's, I mean the, the governor's office actually might work with us to do that.

Richard: ([01:55:57](#))

Well can we say is someone willing to, between now and, and and this January meeting, um, you know, come up with a proposed set of, of climate goals, just get that on the table and we'll just discuss 'em in a February meeting. There's only three of us

Carrie: ([01:56:22](#))

Committee, so I'm not volunteering myself.

Sam M: ([01:56:27](#))

Carrie, you're the perfect person. Just

John V: ([01:56:29](#))

Like almost a clean getaway.

Richard: ([01:56:32](#))

Sam M: ([01:56:33](#))

Make a, make a motion to, um, volunteer carry for this job.

Carrie: ([01:56:37](#))

Sam M: [\(01:56:37\)](#)

No, I mean I think, yeah, I think it would be pretty, I mean I happy I, I can, you know, can, you know, pull together, you know, some, you know, list of climate goals other towns like us have put, have, have done. I,

Carrie: [\(01:56:50\)](#)

I would start with the Portland and South Portland goals because they have put together that like amazing report, you know, the one climate future report that's got their goals and then you could look at the, um, the, just the state of main goals which are um, I forget what they are, but like

John V: [\(01:57:10\)](#)

One climate future syncs up with means goals. So yeah, copying off one climate future is a great place starting point. In fact, I would suggest if we're not matching one climate future, we should explain why.

Sam M: [\(01:57:23\)](#)

Well, I think the only hesitation with cl with, with, you know, trying to model after that is that South Portland and South Portland and Portland are like, in terms of scale and resources and just kinda the, their community, it's so much different than Cape. Um, I mean they're, yeah,

Richard: [\(01:57:40\)](#)

Well I think that, you know, we should, we can look at what they've done, but I think we just have to pair it down. I mean they're so much farther ahead of us mm-hmm that, you know, we can't, you know, we gotta, we gotta eat this element one elephant, one bite at a time.

Sam M: [\(01:57:53\)](#)

Mm-hmm. ,

Richard: [\(01:57:54\)](#)

Right? And so I think that, you know,

Carrie: [\(01:57:55\)](#)

It might be good to understand if, if Portland and South Portland are proposing anything, it's beyond the main climate goals. Um, and if they're not then, then maybe we just, I mean cuz we, we could talk about those big, those big sort of more longer term numbers. You can talk about those separately than some of the other stuff they're doing. Um, I'm trying to download their plan to see what their goals are. I feel like they started high level and we're just trying to get to high level. Um, I think where it's, it seems like where there might be a real discussion is cuz the town could potentially, I mean you see towns that have goals around their town operations and then there's goals that are around emissions that happen in the town. And I think getting to goals around town operations and emissions are easier than, um, like saying we wanna reduce

you, you know, we want everyone in town to have an electric vehicle that's like, that might be going too far for now, but, but you could say we wanna make town operations carbon neutral by a certain date, or we wanna make be using a hundred percent renewable energy for our town electricity.

Carrie: [\(01:59:26\)](#)

That's like, that's really easy to get to a hundred percent because all you have to do is buy Rex. So you could do that tomorrow and you just did the transaction. Um, so

John V: [\(01:59:36\)](#)

My recollection is that, um, when they do the climate planning's, like you, you can set your goals first or not. Uh, and doing the main set of goals, I think is smart. Um, but then there's a big period piece of the climate plan development where you actually have to go and do the community outreach and get the buy-in so that basically the community is supporting those climate goals and has input about how they, how they want to meet them. Whether it's whether it's town operations, whether it's residents, whether it's transportation, whether it's what were the pieces, the components of that. Cuz there's a big chunk of the outreach that happens in the climate planning. When I read through, uh, the processes both for Maine and, and for, uh, one climate future, that's the piece, um, that, so the things you can do before that is establish the goals that you're gonna be in, you know, in sync with Maine. You can also do, uh, start doing, gathering baseline information about what your carbon footprint in, uh, and things you might wanna, um, draft goals around are. And then at that point you need to say, okay, here's a big picture goals that's synchronized with Maine. We've, you know, begun some of the work on the baseline. Now we're gonna bring in a strategist to help us get the, the climate strategy and planning in place.

Sam M: [\(02:01:08\)](#)

Do we want to have like, um, a subcommittee that deals with this? Uh,

John V: [\(02:01:15\)](#)

I think we just, I think we just gotta draft up goals that match Maine, talk to Portland and South Portland and get a ballpark number and say, we recommend you do this. And if you, unless you're gonna do something else, it's all gonna be harder and take longer. Cuz it,

Sam M: [\(02:01:28\)](#)

I think, well, I'll, I'll reach, I reached out to Sarah, um, from G GP Cog. And, and John you want to, you know, check in with, um, Troy and Julie kind of. Sure.

John V: [\(02:01:39\)](#)

I will check.

Sam M: [\(02:01:40\)](#)

All right. I'll, and in, in the meantime, um, I'll kind of peruse the, the state's resources for community, um, uh, sort of action, you know, planning, um, on carbon planning, um, which

seemed to have a lot there. I think I did even think I ran on qa kind a sa sample resolution, you know, that town council could adopt that actually has some goals. Um, so I'll kind of throw that around. Um, I do wanna wrap up so folks can get off to, you know, get to bed and then David's been, been a trooper, um, and, uh, yeah, so

Carrie: [\(02:02:16\)](#)

The, just for example, the Portland and South Portland's high level climate goals are 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions community-wide by 2050, a hundred percent of municipal operations on renewable energy by 2040. And then they will build the resilience of neighborhoods infrastructure and ecosystems prepare for the impact of climate change. So those are their like, like overarching goals and then they've got, you know, the whole plan. But

Richard: [\(02:02:52\)](#)

Yeah, I mean, uh, um, I think that's, that's fine. And then, you know, we can pick from that and we can say, you know, from renewables, the town can be renewable. We want all town vehicles to be electric by, you know, that's what one of the things we're gonna do. And, and the, the, the thing is, I think that you can, until it starts costing the town money, I don't think you have to worry about getting town, the rest of the town engagement. I mean, I think, yeah, it's, it's only when it's gonna cost money that you're gonna have to start making sure that you spend a lot of effort because it takes a lot of effort to get everybody involved and to dispute it. And so I think if we're saving money and we can justify the, the environmental moves on money savings as, which I think you can with replacing EV vehicles, then, you know, I think that, you know, we can, we don't have to burden ourselves because there's not many of us burden ourselves with a big effort to involve the, the whole community because that's a lot of work.

John V: [\(02:04:02\)](#)

So the way I think that, go ahead Richard.

Richard: [\(02:04:07\)](#)

So I think, you know, just what you're saying, Carrie, I mean, something like that is fine. And then, and then just we're gonna, you know, pick a couple projects or talk to somebody and say, you know, how do we get, how do we get started on these things? These are our goals. How do we get started on it and get, get a, get a, get an estimate of a consultant and get us moving? I don't care.

John V: [\(02:04:31\)](#)

Yeah, I, I think if you set those high level goals, you can hire the pretty soon to say it and to develop that strategy and implementation plan. And the first things you are gonna do are the ones that are low cost and within town control. Um, but the, that planning piece is the one that I feel like you just can't step the strategy and planning pieces. That's what's gotta come first. If you set their overarching goals, you can have that done and then they can decide how fast they want to go.

Carrie: [\(02:05:05\)](#)

Um, yeah, it would just be a step. just seems like if there were some big book goals, it would be a step and you could say then, like we could say at our work, oh we're, you know, we're, we're building a solar project on the landfill because A, it saves us money and b it's consistent with our town goal to reduce our, um, greenhouse gas emissions. Um,

Sam M: ([02:05:31](#))

I think our conversation with, um, Gabrielson next week or or, um, you know, Nicole, Nicole Bouche will be, um, I think will give us a lot of momentum towards that. Cause I think we haven't really, I mean other than a chat we have with Jamie Garvin, like on day one where it was like, you know, this is, you know, these are kind, we generally want to get there. We've talked about this in a bit in our, in our, um, uh, comprehensive planning, but there's no real goal, but it sounds good. Um, but yeah, I mean I think the, the town council's gonna be where that, that drive really, you know, needs to, needs be connected and, um, so I'm, yeah, I think, I think, we'll I think we'll be getting there. I think, you know, depending on how, what the makeup of the council is if, if they want to, you know, go along with this. But again, I think we have to take it with like, Hey, you know, there's benefit to the town towns and doing this. It's not just come, you know, some wishy-washy feel good exercise

John V: ([02:06:25](#))

At at, at this point. It's like we're, you know, Maine has set the goals.

Sam M: ([02:06:30](#))

Yeah.

John V: ([02:06:32](#))

And honestly, as municipal municipality, we should be on board with that or explaining why we're not on board with that. And I, there's a lot of advantages to being on board with that, including being able to access all the money and improve your own climate and climate planning. And so, you know, given that we were gonna recommend, let's set goals that, that are synchronized with the state sooner rather than later. Cuz there's no benefit to waiting if you're gonna go along with the plan and let's bring someone in to drive a strategy to get us there. Yep.

Richard: ([02:07:14](#))

Um, so I've got an action of John and Sam to check with Southland GP ki to get ideas for climate goals to bring to the next meeting that are consistent with the main goals.

John V: ([02:07:25](#))

So I was going to ask for one climate goals as well as ballpark cost on a consultant to get started.

Richard: ([02:07:33](#))

Okay.

Sam M: ([02:07:37](#))

Yep. And I'll, I'll, I'll kind circulate some of my findings, you know, comfortable on those points too. John, we can maybe we can connect too. Sure. Um, you know, we can have a, an un official slash illegal meeting. No, I didn't say that. Just yeah, we have, we tune off, we can run it, we can talk and then, um, we can share notes and then yeah. Come to the, the meeting with, um, uh, next month, you know, with some, some, some, some stuff that we can share with, uh, one of the, the, uh, counselors. Um, I'm excited. I think this is gonna be really cool. I think we're, we're getting there and so thanks Carrie for, for everything you've done. I, and we need to have a, a formal kind of ceremony, um, kinda where we kind of, you know, let you let you go off. But, um, it's been an awesome, Carrie, you've been a huge he Yeah. . Yeah. We'll get you back and as soon as soon as we get the old goals in the town, we'll make sure that Yeah. We'll we'll get you back here so you can feel like you're really productive. Yeah.

Richard: ([02:08:33](#))

Carrie, Carrie, thanks a lot. It's been a pleasure. Oh

Carrie: ([02:08:36](#))

Yeah. It's been, uh, thanks to all of you as well. You've,

Dave B: ([02:08:39](#))

Um, yeah.

Sam M: ([02:08:39](#))

Terrific stuff.

Carrie: ([02:08:40](#))

You've all been great to work with. Um,

Sam M: ([02:08:43](#))

Um, good. Well, I, I, I, um, raise a, a, a motion that we, um, formally thank Carrie for her service on the committee

Richard: ([02:08:52](#))

.

Sam M: ([02:08:52](#))

Absolutely. Do, do we need seconds? Any eyes? Oh, I'll raise, raise hand. All. Okay. Nice. Okay. Motion passes informally recognize Carrie's commitment and say thank you so much. Um, and that's on the record now, so, okay. We should probably wrap up so folks can get on their, with their, their day. Um, you wanna, yeah, Richard?

Richard: ([02:09:15](#))

Well, one thing I think that, you know, we gotta, we gotta encourage other members to be on here. I mean, this has to be a priority with people. I mean, we can't Yeah. Do this is just, you know, half the committee all the time. Mm-hmm. we're getting new members and we've got

two members that haven't really been attended many meetings and we gotta, you know, we have to encourage 'em to do that.

Sam M: ([02:09:34](#))

Yeah, I was, I was suggesting to David, maybe we just kind know, um, put a, uh, calendar invite out, you know, I can, I can take on that. Um, just to get people just, you know, re re remind folks, hey, this is, this is happening. Um, and we'll have two new folks coming on starting next, uh, next month. Um, but yeah, it's a good reminder and I think that, you know, Sam Lipman's been looking for an exit, you know, um, route for a little while given his things have, have gotten busier. So, um, yeah, I think we maybe, you know, try to fill his spot too and get someone who's more, more were able to be present.

Dave B: ([02:10:15](#))

I, I think some people on the committee were, did get reached out to by Deb Lane, uh, based on participation. You know, when you're on the committee there's an expectation that you're gonna attend, you know, the majority if you can. And we have some people who aren't even meeting half.

Sam M: ([02:10:35](#))

Interesting. Um, David, thanks for hanging in with us. We're wrapping up. I

John V: ([02:10:40](#))

Would, I would hope you would coordinate that with the committee chairman cuz we want to catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

Sam M: ([02:10:47](#))

Yeah, yeah. I mean, I would, I would agree. Um, but I can check in the table with that about that too. Does 'em all be on the same page?

John V: ([02:11:00](#))

Anything else we need to touch base on?

Richard: ([02:11:06](#))

Gary, these websites you sent, are they, is there more than one or just one?

Carrie: ([02:11:12](#))

Uh, there's two. One is the consultant that I know that my colleague in Westwood said they did. Um, well the, the, it's a woman in Massachusetts who, who did the Westwood plan. And then there's one that's just the South Portland Portland plan, the one climate future.

Richard: ([02:11:31](#))

Okay.

Speaker 5: ([02:11:31](#))

Yeah.

Sam M: ([02:11:35](#))

Yeah. And that's the main, the, um, I mean.gov/future/climate, you know, has a ton of really good stuff. Um, so I'm gonna, I'm gonna dig into that and I can send, I can send a link to that also just to our, um, by email. So that way it's, it's sticks which otherwise all these chats just kind of evaporate if no one saves them. Yeah.

Carrie: ([02:11:56](#))

Says it says I can save it on my computer. We've never done that.

Sam M: ([02:12:00](#))

Yeah, you can do like a right click on chat thing. Okay. May make a motion.

John V: ([02:12:10](#))

I I move re adjourn.

Carrie: ([02:12:12](#))

I'll second, second.

Richard: ([02:12:14](#))

I have your number. Carrie

Carrie: ([02:12:16](#))

, right? f

Sam M: ([02:12:17](#))

Yeah.

Richard: ([02:12:19](#))

Don't change, don't change your phone number or your email address.

Carrie: ([02:12:22](#))

Oh, don't worry. I won't change my phone number. Although the person who used to have my phone number, I think is in prison and, um, he's, he, he didn't change his CMP account number, so they're always calling me, telling me they're turning off my account, paid my bill, finally figure out who it was. Cause they keeps getting phone. I mean, I've had this number for like over 10 years and this person that still gets

Sam M: ([02:12:52](#))

Fun on like, that's hilarious.

Richard: ([02:12:54](#))

, I've got one of those too. It's uh, what's, can't remember what her name, but I keep getting

'em. But it's been, it's been 10 years. Same thing.

Sam M: ([02:13:02](#))

.

Richard: ([02:13:02](#))

It was supposed to be a purged number, so

Sam M: ([02:13:05](#))

Yeah. All right. All thank Happy holidays folks. All right, thanks David. Thanks folks. Bye-Bye.