



Climate Action Commission Agenda  
Thursday 06/05/25  
4:30 P.M. City Hall Auditorium

1. Introductions (as necessary) – 5 min

- Attendees: City: Rod Melanson; Committee members: Paul Perkins, John Zittel, Nancy Sferra, Rod Melanson, Connor English, Ruth Indrick; Community attendees: Amelia Nelson, Prius Nmumbe (spelling?), Amanda Eagon (spelling?), Ginger Arnold (Bowdoin Fellow), Kyler Phillips (KELT)
  - i. PM: interested in climate change and work to address it
  - ii. AE: interested in learning more about committee

2. Minutes – 5 min

- Assign note taker (Ruth Indrick)
- Review 05/01/25: approved by all

3. KELT Restoration Project introduction

- Kyler Phillips (KELT) – 10 minutes
- Works with RI on restoration team. Is prioritizing tidal crossings in our region for restoration of community and habitat.
- Why KELT cares about road crossings: finding projects at intersection of natural resources and people – road crossings are at this intersection. Storms are making these more vulnerable. Small culverts are cheaper and have been put in in the past, restrict flow to marshes that prevents them from staying up with sea level rise, are barriers to fish passage. Marshes are vital habitat, store carbon, protect shoreline – buffer during storms and help prevent erosion, remove pollution from water, habitat for rare species, habitat and nutrient foundation for commercial fish species.
- Kyler is prioritizing all crossings in our region over next two years using a variety of factors: rare species, cutting people off from resources, etc. Has met with Sagadahoc EMA director, Rod, will meet with Public Works; along with representatives from other communities.
- Near end of this year will complete assessment, share fact sheets for each site with municipal road managers.
- Interested in learning more about priority sites in town and our interests. Locations where there are priorities for things like swimming areas, recreational use of tidal waters. Areas with known flooding or hazards.

- Questions about data use – is using big state datasets, has gotten the Bath flood dataset from Rod
- **Kyler will send the pdf map of Bath crossings to Rod, who will share with committee members to provide Kyler with feedback for specific crossings**

#### 4. Climate Action Plan

- a. Outreach and Education Discussion (John) – 10 min
- Are working on identifying the groups to meet with, ways to connect across the full community
- Excited to meet with Peyton Silar and her colleague (? Perkins) – Strategic Planning Sub-committee will meet next week with them
  1. Developing and helping with implementation of community outreach
  2. Creating metrics for tracking climate actions
- JZ met with Deb Keller to ask for Bath Housing and Bath Housing Committee feedback. She pointed out that climate community and social services community are two different ecosystems. Will serve us well to get them talking more.
- Commercial side important too: retail, Hyde, light industrial, nonprofit. JZ met with Mandy Reynolds (Bath Development Corps). Visited Wing Farm parkway. Met and took tour of the Plant Home – they are thinking about geothermal, hvac, other improvements and are excited about doing more.
- Transportation – a few months ago CAC members sat with their committee members and determined that they would take the lead on those pieces. Would be good for Connor and Megan to provide an update on that at a future meeting.

#### 5. Energy subcommittee update

- Energy Fund (Connor) – 5 min
  - i. The City Council approved the efficiency fund (rebate program with middle and low income residents). Pilot program is starting now. Amelia developed a one-page outreach document.
- Energy Coaching/Navigation (Paul/ Rod) – 10 min
  - i. A community outreach tool for people to support individuals in making climate decisions.
  - ii. Best option seems to be Bath participating in a pilot program being developed by the state, but it has moved to 2026 legislative session for funding consideration.
  - iii. Paul has looked at resources: Brookline MA has some good examples. Are there ways to make the City's materials more accessible and user friendly? Do we have capacity for energy coaching at this time?
  - iv. Energy coaching interest group – the group that was pursuing the legislation has put together an interest group that will be holding meetings once a month. Paul and John will be attending, hope to learn from other communities who are interested in this process. Are there short-term things that can be done to make things more accessible?
    1. A storymap was created last year. Ginger can update.

- v. This is a need expressed in a number of communities. Expect would make our proposal to join the state's pilot project more successful if we were to develop a regional effort, potentially in coordination with MCOG.
- vi. We can ask Peyton for an idea/design for initial information we can share, best action for committee members, starting at our meeting next week.

## 6. Communications & Engagement

- a. Climate Conversations Series
  - i. 2025-2026 season (John) – 5 min
    - Are people supportive of series?
    - CE: recommends decision to make: bring new people in or bring new programs in? pick one to focus on this coming year
    - Topics in the pipeline:
      - Envision resilience challenge – sharing their conclusion
      - Councilor Marks wants to do a movie and book event on the subject of parking – wants in city hall with popcorn machine
      - PP connection – Leila Lowery in Kennebunk does youth empowerment with climate change, interested in her program talking about engaging students, could be good example for students to take part in this as well
      - E-demo day (take 2!) – spring is better as people are mowing lawns, getting tools. Things are going well already – Rockys reports that last year 1 gas mower, 25 electric mowers sold.
    - **Subcommittee: Paul, Nancy, Ruth, Connor**

## 7. Advisory note status & plans (John/Megan) – 10 min

- Advisory note to Council that we agreed on is scheduled to be delivered to Council on 7/2, update on relevant activity at state and federal level, and recommendations of CAC. Will be request for whether council would like a single resolution, memorandums of support.
- LD1: program to provide a funding stream for coastal and shoreline repairs and refurbishing – passed and was approved
- **Proposal: Would it be helpful for CAC to have a standing annual presentation to the City Council to share updates, legislative input. Potentially schedule around Earth Day?**

## 8. Updates

- a. Envision Resilience Challenge (Rod/John/Paul) – 5 min
  - Academic architectural and planning programs at 4-6 colleges will be here next semester in fall in Bath taking some deep dives in planning, transportation, coastal resilience. They have been in touch with a lot of organizations and people in town already. Starts in September. Will likely provide time and information to our committee. Similar to the DART plan in 2014. End product includes landscape architectural plans for how Bath could be more resilient in the future – concept level design info. They did Portland/South Portland recently.

- Faculty representatives will be here for a visit and walks around town in a few weeks.
- b. GMRI Events Re-Cap – (Rod) – 5 min (funded through an EBSCOR grant)
  - Event last week had a nice array of tables representing a broad group of organizations. Provided opportunities for groups to talk – eg. age friendly, transportation, forestry, climate, KELT, etc. Some people from community attended.
  - AE: learned about it walking around town. Was pleasantly surprised by how active it was, bigger than she expected. Made it to half the tables. Thought it was a worthwhile event. Helped her to become more aware of all committees. A great introduction to Bath for a newer Bath resident. Then she as an attendee was able to share events and information she learned with people she knows – increasing the reach of the program.
- c. Bowdoin intern – (Rod) – 5 min
  - Welcome to Ginger
  - Environmental studies and economics major. First day at City is today. Will be a junior. Is from South Carolina.
- d. Grants (Rod) – 5 min
  - FEMA HMPG Submission: for downtown resiliency funding
  - Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study: getting funds from MaineDEP, if a stormwater utility is feasible for costs of upgrading stormwater utilities
  - CSCI: GZA sent in application, we should hear this month about that
  - CRP: Silar Climate Consulting will be starting next week
  - MDOT: Is big project with BIW.
    - i. Will be a master transportation planning effort for the City starting with DOT and BIW starting in the next month. Rod and BPT put transit, bike ped, other things into the plan process. Will take just under a year for the planning process.
    - ii. Bath BPT committee: working with BIW to improve # of bus routes, better bike access, better pedestrian access. Question: when/how should Climate Action Commission weigh in on parking along edge of marsh.
    - iii. There are two projects that MaineDOT is managing in the region - A2K (Androscoggin to Kennebec Trail) project is also happening in the same time frame from same DOT funding source.
  - Connor will share BPT updates at next meeting, also ask BIW to attend meeting to share their update. Proposal is to have BIW present at 4pm before our next CAC meeting.

9. Other business / public comment – 5 min

- July meeting date: 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30, potential BIW workshop at 4pm
- We will not meet in August
- New members: one has been in Bath last 6 months and has just learned about this, masters degree in sustainable development from Boston. Has worked with refugees from South Sudan in Chad – climate refugees where

water is more precious than gold – rain and plants alone are value. Is eager to learn and contribute.

- Feedback on better ways to engage people by PN: is there data on people reaching the website? Do young people go to the website? Are there other ways to connect? Learned about this from Main Street Bath, asked them, volunteers with them, they put him in touch with Megan. Learning more about the audience – young people = social media. Graphics, cartoons, animations on social media – better for reaching a certain group. Info on podcasts, radio, influencers who could push things about activities and community.
- Amelia will table at Pride next Friday with CAC table.

Next meeting: Thursday 7/10, hopefully 4pm BIW workshop, 4:30pm meeting