

Falmouth Green Ribbon Commission on Energy and Climate Change

Minutes: June 12, 2008 Meeting | Submitted by Ann Goggin

Russell Room | Library | 7 pm – 9 pm

Attendees: Mel Dickenson, Mark Hutchins, Ann Goggin, David Tucker, Glenn Brand, Dee Conroy-Vella, Barb DiBiase, Jed Wright, Andre Casavant, Craig Baranowski, David Gagnon, Bob Welch, Claudia King, Bill Hastings, Michael Morrison.

Vistors: Nathan Poore, Town Manager; Laura Lorenzetti

Welcome: Michael Morrison welcomed the group and reminded us of why we are here: We have one year to recommend to the Town Council how the Town will live up to its pledge under the US Mayor's Climate Change Protection Agreement. Interim reports and early action recommendations encouraged. Review of history of Commission.

Review of charge: 7% below 1990 emissions by 2012. 1990 population = 7,600; EPA estimates Maine 1990 emissions at 3,800 kg carbon per year (3.8 MTC/yr), so Falmouth 1990 emissions estimated at 29,000 MTC/yr. 2008 population estimate [Kathleen Babeu] = 11,500; assuming 1% per year emissions growth [national average] implies a current total emission of 52,000 MTC/yr. 7% below 1990 = 27,000 MTC/yr.

Discussion of organization of committee. Voice vote to affirm structure of Steering Committee. Affirmation of Bill Hastings, Michael Morrison and Ann Goggin. Understanding that structure can change as we go through the year.

Norms & Rules Ann circulated and reviewed draft "Norms & Procedures". All meetings of the whole require public notice, agenda and meetings. Assume that any email between Commissioners is subject to FOIA (Freedom of Act) request. Ann welcomed Nathan Poore. Current interpretation of state law is that more than two members of the commission constitute a meeting and should be noticed. Ann to discuss further with Nathan. There is a town web page for the Commission. Barbara DiBiase is our staff go to person for web postings.

Key Issues Each Commissioner was asked to given up to four minutes to state their name and state their key issue(s) for the Commission to address.[Note: while many of us gave some personal info on our background, we each submitted write-ups on our background and thus that info was not included here, but rather just the "key issues" identified by each person]:

1. Michael Morrison
 - a. Time, money, & fuel are short. Moves must be efficient and effective, leveraging limited resources to as great an extent as possible. Opportunity for performance increases and infrastructure changes are fragmented and particular, so

individual motivation and action is key. Offered Pivot incentives concept to support individual motivation.

- b. Neither government nor Commission can do the necessary work, we must instead catalyze it.
 - c. Building standards, zoning, and long-term land-use planning are high priorities.
 - d. Study community renewable power and storage. Develop high-quality, town-wide emissions and energy data. Think hard about rail and food production.
2. Mel Dickenson
 - a. Emissions inventory; we are at 385ppm as a Nation versus 180-280ppm in earlier centuries.
 - b. Education and Outreach. Communications will be important and should be a central theme and maybe a subgroup of the Commission
3. Mark Hutchins
 - a. Can make contributions involving engine technology. There have been new behavioral and technical developments to make industrial vehicle usage more efficient.
 - b. Interested in town public works vehicles, use of biofuel, etc.
4. Ann Goggin
 - a. Infrastructure: transportations systems (roads)/where we put buildings/what we build is a major capital investment, and cannot be changed as quickly as the price of oil or new information about damage to the environment.
 - i. Ex: new elementary school is being built where almost no elementary students can walk to school.
 - b. Commission needs to address infrastructure, land use planning and building codes.
5. Dave Tucker
 - a. Identify key homeowner actions and “projects” with quick response
6. Glen Brand
 - a. Learn from others: others around the State and Country have done a lot of work in the area targeted by the Commission. We should use the resources already developed, and build upon them.
 - b. Institutionalize what we do. Establish, over time, a system where we think about our impact on Climate with everything that we do.
 - c. Identify and remove obstacles. Cited an example of height restrictions for wind turbine towers.
 - d. Early implementation actions are very important. We don't delay our recommendations.

- e. Important for the town government to lead by example. Town has a lot of ways to leverage behavior. Look for opportunities that are before us.
- f. Look very closely at the new Elementary School being constructed as to its energy efficiency measures. It was mentioned that the School Board had committed to efficiency. There was discussion about various efficiency levels and the School as a way to lead by example.
- g. Need mix of bold and mundane actions. Bold to capture the imagination of the public.
- h. Balance short-term, mid-term and long-term investments.
- i. Important to set up a system where we are measuring emissions and reductions.
- j. Important to celebrate our successes.

7. Deirdre “Dee” Conroy Villa

- a. We have acknowledged the problem, we are working on a solution and we will succeed.
- b. Initially it will be important to establish energy audit data and read reports (energy inventory)
- c. Goal orientation. Establish our goals as short term, mid term, long term.
- d. Establish short term/medium term/long term goals. Find short term attainable goals. Long term more dramatic:
 - i. 6 month: give Council. How much CO2 is produced by the average family household. Currently is approximately 5,200 lbs per year. Every HH to sign up for clean electricity would reduce it by X\$. drop of %. Just for electrical emissions. Average cost is \$7 - \$14 per month more for clean electricity. Look at the Elementary school project. Ensure that new road construction is environmentally sensible. Most cost effective to put in sidewalks and crosswalks.
 - ii. 10 months: creative, attainable and sustainable. Falmouth is pretty ideal. Would like the downtown to become more downtown.
 - iii. Establish Falmouth as a magnet for green businesses. Act as a model for the state. This is a global effort and requires global thinking.
 - iv. Longer term – “big” projects.
 - 1. Vibrant downtown.
- e. Establishment of work shops. Municipal. Residential. Commercial. Each workshop having a spokesperson and a liaison. Need to establish the current status of each area.
- f. Coordinate with other local groups to avoid duplication.

8. Barbara DiBiase

- a. Our liaison / town staff support.

- b. The town is well “down the road” with a Municipal energy audit, it should be done by the 1st part of July. Some elements are difficult to pull together. The Municipal piece is a smaller part of the total town efficiency number but one that is easy to gauge
- c. Barbara can keep us up with what the Town is doing.

9. Jed Wright

- a. Focus on our “vulnerabilities” and adaptation to emerging challenges.
- b. Facilitation/facilitator for the group to ensure effectiveness.
- c. Make sure we take advantage of work already done
- d. Community outreach and integration into entire community.
- e. Ensure that we don’t become marginalized. Lead by example and take into account all opinions

10. Andre Cassavant

- a. Get and Emissions Inventory completed for the town. This will allow us to focus our efforts

11. Craig Baronowski.

- a. His focus is on efficient power use technology and systems. Knows “what is out there”.
- b. Lighting management expertise can be applied
- c. Cold Climate Heat Pump implementation and awareness
- d. Familiar with “Smart Metering” options and politics

12. David Gagnon:

- a. Open space, transportation, small hydro.
- b. Keep it simple (and doable)
- c. Seek government funding or target through a list possibilities for government funding
- d. Residential energy audits

13. Robert Welch

- a. Focus on economic benefit. Investment in efficiency “worth of a watt”
- b. Take into account things already done within the Town. Include that as part of the Commission Report

14. Claudia King:

- a. Watch goals relative to target dates. Targets are tough (Kyoto)

- b. After discussion, the 2050 guidelines are more practical and a 2% annual compounded emissions reduction may be more practical for discussion of targets than Kyoto. Further discussion needed.
- c. Learn from other communities. Learn about Falmouth: miles of roads, kids with asthma, etc.
- d. Develop a Statistical Summary for our Town; roads, houses, demographics
- e. Take into account other GRCommittee efforts around the Country
- f. Make sure we bring the Community along. Community outreach and input. Give people something they can do. Evaluate patterns of development, emphasize more agricultural space.
- g. Green business space within the Town along with incentives.
- h. After discussion, consider public forums, guest invitation and commentary

15. Bill Hastings

- a. Develop an Emissions Report (Inventory) to help with targets and goal-setting. Try to establish practical and realistic goals.
- b. Make communication a priority. Worry about perceptions of a “closed” Committee with such a passionate and important topic being considered.
- c. Look into the installation of “Smart Meters” in all homes in town. Described smart meters as new technology used in the cellular industry that allows real-time viewing of electric costs and usage. Requires new Tariff structure with CMP but, generally, Utilities have been in favor of their installation
- d. Look very closely at Tidal Power, We have strong tidal options here
- e. Examine the enormous volumes of natural gas available to the Town from the Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline. The line was built in 1997 and passes in a NE SW orientation to the west of the Turnpike over Hurricane Ridge. This might lead to “hybrid gas fired generation” combined with Wind or Solar.
- f. Look closely at replacing fuel oil usage (heat) in Town with a natural gas distribution system.

Next Meeting	Next meeting is Jun 19th, also at the Library from 7PM to 9PM with a social (half) hour beginning at 6:30. Another to be held on Jun 26th, location TBD.
Initial Work Plan	Iterate main ideas at first and second meeting. By third, develop focus groups and begin work. At that point meetings of entire Commission will space further out. Thoughts, suggestions, and any other input should be directed to the Steering Committee (all three) by email, or to any one of them by phone. By Sunday, Jun 15th at noon for next round of input.
Extant Topics	Web site. Meeting broadcasting. Setting goals discussion. Public/private revolving fund (Cambridge, MA), Use of Town’s preliminary fund. Science. Public opinion. Communicating with public.

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Meeting Concluded at 9:10pm