



## **TOWN OF MOUNT DESERT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

**Thursday, November 17, 2022**

**Town Meeting Room and electronic**

**Northeast Harbor**

Members Present:  
Phil Lichtenstein, Chair  
Dennis Shubert  
Gordon Beck  
Rosemary Matchak  
Troy Julian  
Sydney R Rockefeller

1. The committee approved the minutes of June and October as distributed.
2. PL updated the progress of the Climate Task Force.
3. The committee reviewed the minutes of the Otter Creek Community Meeting focused on the Otter Creek cove. The committee recognized the concerns about past contributions to sediment in the cove and the impact of the ANP Causeway. The Committee expressed willingness to participate in the evaluation of the environmental issues of possible historical contamination by prior use but declined to be involved in the community discussion about goals for viewscape and community access and use of the cove. Certainly, Otter Cove is a community asset that needs to be maximized for the benefits of the village and the town. For natural reasons of tide flows the cove itself has a limited window for marine uses.
4. Electric vehicle charging: The utility pole necessary for powering the level II charging station is in position and final commissioning may be in one month. Efficiency Maine Funding Opportunity Notice (FON) for support of level II charging has been extended to January 17 including Mount Desert Island. The group discussed the process for identifying installation sites for Level II chargers. The conclusion is that the Climate Action Task Forces and A Climate to Thrive are the decision makers. The committee discussed a proposed discussion paper for the Town to adopt for EV charging policy. The consensus was that vehicle owners

should support all costs of charging. Also the Town should adopt policies that promoted fair access to chargers. Furthermore, the Town should enforce EV use only for charging spaces as practical. (Suggested policy attached.) It was pointed out that the Town Charter prohibits TMD subsidization of private activity.

5. The Committee discussed the challenges of moving forward with the installation of solar electric projects. The two major categories are a large solar farm (4-5 acres) and roof top of small ground based solar. The consensus was that a statement from the Board of Selectman (BOS) that the Town supports any solar project that provides energy to the Town without impact to taxpayers should be supported. The implication is that the TMD would use its ability to assume debt to finance a solar project that produced electric power equal to or in excess to the cost of financing and management would be supported. TMD should be agnostic to the location of the solar project. The Inflation Reduction Act provides an opportunity for the Town to receive a 15% direct payment for fully financed solar projects. It was reported that the Town presently spends about \$30,000 monthly for electric power. The group agreed that asking A Climate to Thrive (Beth Wolfork) to model a project and asking vendors for bids for roof top solar on the Mount Desert Elementary School and the Otter Creek Pump Station would be appropriate first steps.
6. Charge point utilization statistics were reviewed. Usage was primarily for two hours or less per charge
7. The Committee noted that the Chairman's temporary difficulty with speaking focused the need for better written communication from the Climate Action Task Force and A Climate to Thrive.

The next meeting of the committee is December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30pm.