

Wiscasset Climate Action Team (WCAT) Meeting Agenda  
April 11th, 2024, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Wiscasset Town Office meeting room and Zoom (meeting info below)

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of past minutes (Dec. 2023 - Feb. 2024) (5 minutes), Cassy Rose
3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (members of the public are limited to 5 minutes each for remarks)
4. Community Action Grant application update (5 minutes), Cassy Rose
5. Earth Day event planning updates, Jan Hobbs Bailey and Cassy Rose (30 minutes)
6. Comprehensive Plan Committee collaboration: upcoming public meeting (May 11, 1-3pm, Community Center) and public survey questions, Leslie Roberts (15 minutes)
  - a. Members to discuss climate-related questions that they have for the public at the request of the Comprehensive Plan Committee
7. Work Group updates (10 minutes): work group chairs to provide any recent updates on their activities
8. Next Meeting Agenda Discussion
9. Adjourn

**How to join the Zoom meeting:**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85892131325?pwd=WDVNRklUUTdQWUhmN2VnM0Jzc2o4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 9213 1325

Passcode: 841598

---

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,85892131325#,,, \*841598# US

+13092053325,,85892131325#,,, \*841598# US

Wiscasset Climate Action Team (WCAT) Meeting Minutes  
February 28th, 2024, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Wiscasset Community Center conference room (Zoom unavailable) - ask at the front desk to be directed to the conference room (limited seating available)

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order 6:06pm
2. Welcome to new member, Patrick Sandefur, and member introductions
3. Municipal climate resolution and Community Action Grant application update (10 minutes)
  - a. 5-0 approval of the climate resolution by the Select Board
  - b. Community Action Grant - March 29th
    - i. Vulnerability assessment
    - ii. Letters of support - follow up with tracking list for people to sign up
      1. Fishermen -
      2. Fore Street residents
      3. Deb - talk to businesses
      4. Shellfish committee -reach out, Evan knows how to reach them, (Scott James 207-751-6669 - don't include in notes)
      5. Blood wormers
      6. Yacht Club
      7. MaineDOT - Cassy to reach out
  - c. Joint workshop with waterfront committee March 12th
  - d. Pictures of recent coastal storms - please send to Cassy
4. 2024 WCAT Projects and Priorities Discussion (30 minutes): discussion of potential committee work to prioritize next year based on public feedback
  - a. Earth Day event planning:
    - i. April 27th, Senior Center 9am-1pm available, Marty is also asking about the availability of the gym that day
    - ii. EV Ride and Drive at the community center, can't get answers from local

dealerships

1. National Drive Electric Week, Jan attending a marketing Zoom next week
2. Insurance question - local owners would have to rely on their own car insurance
3. Dealerships are all insured, not an issue
4. Plan B: get a speaker to talk about EVs, maybe Efficiency Maine

iii. Tabling and speakers

1. Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and Wiscasset Garden Club
2. David Pope - hike and Morris Farm
3. Scrap Dogs
4. Food truck - reach out to Shannon at Treats
  - a. Check with the Rec center on whether this would be allowed
5. Chewonki
6. Lincoln-Knox Soil and Water Conservation District
7. Newspapers
8. WCAT and Maine Climate Council - Cassy to speak with GOPIF
9. Youth speaker - Terry
10. Waterfront walk - Cassy to speak with Dennis, Maine Geological Survey
11. Biochar demonstration - Peter Arnold
12. Library
13. Vendors - Evan volunteered to take the lead
  - a. Solar
  - b. Battery powered lawn equipment
  - c. Efficiency Maine - Marty
  - d. Great sunflower project (Jan) or Wild Seed Project and pollinators

- e. Heat pump vendors - Pat
    - f. Energy audits
  - iv. Raffle? Evan can manage
  - v. Materials
    - 1. Tables
  - vi. Communications
    - 1. Flyers to put into food pantry boxes - Deb
    - 2. Lincoln County television
  - vii. Next steps:
    - 1. Try to get initial list of vendors, speakers
    - 2. Cassy to let town know that we're planning this event
    - 3. Schedule next planning meeting: March 10th, 9am, Treats community table
    - 4. Cassy and Deb to discuss press release
- b. Work Group updates (10 minutes): work group chairs to provide any recent updates on their activities
  - i. RePower Work Group dissolution (Peter Arnold): their group has been expanding and has decided to move out on their own. Evan proposed ending the RePower work group within WCAT and wished them luck, WCAT members voted 6-0-0- to dissolve the Work Group.
    - 1. Their next steps are to focus on supporting energy generation at the former Maine Yankee location, and become a nonprofit that focuses on that work. They would like to be dynamic without stepping on town toes.
  - ii. Emerging Opportunities WG updates:
    - 1. Leslie has a Zoom call this Friday with Maine DEP, Army Corps, Knox-Lincoln County SWC, town officials to discuss what can and can't be done in the cove next to Pleasant Street extension, whether the strategy needs to be rethought, and will it be useable if erosion/flooding mitigation work is done on Fore Street.
      - a. She will provide updates to the Select Board sometime in the future
      - b. Cassy would like to join the call to help inform the

Community Action Grant application.

5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (5 minutes)
  - a. Heather Jones is impressed and pleased with all the progress that WCAT has made, and RePower's progress towards
6. Next Meeting Agenda Discussion (5 minutes) - March 27, 2024
  - a. Catching up on meeting minutes - approvals
  - b. Progress report on Earth day event
  - c. Leslie to update WCAT on Pleasant Street extension phone call
7. Adjourned 7:01pm

Wiscasset Climate Action Team (WCAT) Meeting Minutes  
January 24th, 2024, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Wiscasset Town Office meeting room and Zoom

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order
2. 2024 Potential WCAT Projects and Priorities Discussion (40 minutes): discussion of potential committee work to prioritize next year based on public feedback
  - a. Preparing the Wiscasset Community Center Community Action Grant application (submit by end of March)
    - i. Set up a meeting with Duane and our county emergency manager Maury Prentice to get more information
  - b. Public priorities:
    - i. education and advocacy
      1. Earth Day event - big educational opportunity. April 22nd, Monday (follows April 15-19 school vacation). Hold maybe the Saturday before, **April 20th or 27th**. (Jan will inquire)
        - a. Jan: EarthDay.org, end plastic goal, 60% reduction by 2040 goal. They have quizzes, fact sheets
          - i. She'll ask the Community Center about the dates and ask the schools superintendent about engaging
        - b. Leslie: composting, plastic, other vendors
        - c. Cassy: involve library. EV ride and drive, bring vendors who can talk about energy efficiency, WindowDressers event? (Marty has organized events in the past)
        - d. Potential locations:
          - i. Community Center
          - ii. Waterfront
          - iii. Middle-High School
        - e. Potential vendors:
          - i. Efficiency Maine - Marty is happy to inquire

- ii. Electric school buses - Terry has reached out to the school superintendent about applying for EPA clean school bus funding. She's interested but the transportation director isn't.
    1. Cassy will re-send Terry the links to the EPA and Maine Department of Education
  - iii. Infrastructure
    1. WCAT will help identify sources of funding to install public charging in town
  - iv. Identify and protect areas for living shorelines and saltmarsh migration areas.
    1. Pleasant Street extension project, spearheaded by Leslie. Goal for this year: figure out what phase I would look like, potential funding vehicles. Request approval from Select Board, and then begin applying for grants.
      - a. Potential for a park with future relocation of wastewater treatment plant location
  - v. Adopt a climate resilience plan that describes high priority strategies for reducing risk to vulnerable members of the Wiscasset community as well as critical community infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railroads, stream crossings and culverts, and the wastewater treatment plant.
    1. Cassy: proposing that WCAT work on this plan starting in May
3. Work Group updates (10 minutes): work group chairs to provide any recent updates on their activities
    - a. CRP working group updates
      - i. Cassy is writing a letter to the Select Board to help give context to the proposed municipal climate resolution and will send the letter soon
      - b. Johnson Control proposal: there will be different options, how will WCAT interact with the town moving forward? What kind of input will we have?
        - i. Marty will check with Dennis Simmons and report back
  4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (5 minutes)
  5. Next Meeting Agenda Discussion (5 minutes)
    - a. Have an Earth Day planning meeting
    - b. Plan out our activities on a calendar for this year
  6. Adjourn

Wiscasset Climate Action Team (WCAT) Meeting Minutes  
January 18th, 2024, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Wiscasset Town Office meeting room and Zoom (meeting info below)

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order
2. Review and finalize draft municipal climate resolution (see attachment)
3. Committee discussion of potential projects for town to consider for Community Action Grant application
4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (5 minutes)
5. Next Meeting Agenda Discussion (5 minutes)
6. Adjourn

**WCAT 1/18/24 Meeting notes**

Municipal resolution

- CRP priorities
  - #2
    - Question: is WCC an emergency shelter?
      - No - and there's confusion
      - Making it a 24 hour shelter means a commitment to personnel, materials, facility upgrades (eg cooling capabilities through heat pump installation), communication to community members
    - Motion is passed 6-0 in favor of submitting the resolution to the select board
  - Select board preparation
    - Short 5-10 intro to our work and the municipal resolution
      - terry: the board appreciates efficiency, make it clear the work entailed.
      - Items to emphasize:
        - How many hours in WCAT meetings, workshops, preparation
        - Public input on climate action in Wiscasset
        - Important climate indicators - last week's coastal storms, 2023 was warmest year on record globally and 2nd warmest for Maine
        - Cost of climate change to town - how much more people have to spend
        - More likely to get federal grant funds by making a public commitment
  - Projects - committee members agreed on this list
    - Prepare the Wiscasset Community Center or a town-owned building as a shelter for climate emergencies
      - considerations: overnight accommodations, food (work with food pantries),



communications

- Committee members who think this should be #1: Leslie, Cassy, Deb, Terry
- Terry, Cassy, and Leslie volunteer to talk with Rob Bickford (fire chief) and Duane at WCC
- Pleasant Street extension project - Leslie is talking with Army Corps of Engineers, DEP, others
  - Shore up Fore Street from erosion
  - Leslie would not prioritize funding from the community action grant for this project
- Municipal efficiency upgrades
  - Johnson Control project - they will be presenting different projects and potential costs
  - WCAT could recommend “green”/non-carbon emitting sources of heating and cooling be prioritized (i.e., heat pumps)
- Install public EV charging stations in public parking lots
- Participate in National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System - this gets residents discounts on flood insurance
  - Evan to send Cassy a description of the recommendation
- Wastewater Treatment Plant - move this to higher ground out, ideally public works, and apply for the Maine Infrastructure Adaptation Fund to make that move
  - Committee members assented to this project
  - DEP already
- Transition town equipment and vehicles to electric/lower emissions, including electric school buses (e.g., lawn and outdoor equipment, town vehicles, etc.)

Wiscasset Climate Action Team (WCAT) Meeting Minutes  
December 20, 2023, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Wiscasset Town Office meeting room and Zoom

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order
2. RePower Working Group Presentation (20 minutes): Peter Arnold to discuss updated policy recommendations to WCAT, with full committee to consider recommendations to town
3. 2024 Potential WCAT Projects Discussion (20 minutes): discussion of potential committee work to prioritize next year based on public feedback
  - a. Recommendations to WCAT:
    - i. Advocate for the development of a clean energy technology park on Maine Yankee property
      1. Committee members are comfortable with recommending to the economic development director to explore this idea and optimize clean energy generation to increase revenue for Wiscasset, also balancing forest preservation on the whole (i.e., if fewer trees are cut down locating generation closer to transmission on this property, as opposed to developing a clean energy technology park elsewhere, that is supported)
    - ii. Promote Wiscasset as “clean energy friendly” - really about endorsing the offshore wind research array, learning more about this and moving towards advocating for Wiscasset to be the connection point for the array’s electricity generation
      1. Committee members are most comfortable asking the economic development director to invite GEO to present
    - iii. Recommend to the town that it support and explore increasing clean/renewable energy generation, with the town leading by example and encouraging generation in town boundaries. “Prettiest clean energy village in Maine”
      1. We recommend that the economic development committee explore and prioritize clean energy/renewable energy development within Wiscasset.
  - b. RePower reached out to Governor’s Energy Office about their availability for a presentation to WCAT about offshore wind array, would like to invite Select

Board, Wiscasset Economic Development Director and economic development committee.

- c. RePower WG has talked with organizations like Peregrine Technologies, Chewonki Foundation, Ocean Renewable Power Corporation, and Maine Hydrogen Energy Center - interested in developing renewable energy and storage in a renewable energy park in Wiscasset (e.g., technology park at Mason Station)
  - i. Peter Arnold is talking to the Chamber of Commerce Dec. 21st to talk about directions for renewable energy
4. Community Resilience Partnership Working Group Quick Updates (10 minutes) - the committee did not have time to discuss the updates below
  - a. Partnership application update
  - b. Municipal climate resolution update
  - c. Community Action Grant and other upcoming grant deadlines
5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (5 minutes) - no public comments
6. Next Meeting Agenda Discussion (5 minutes)
  - a. 2024 committee work
  - b. Community action grant application
    - i. Cassy will circulate a survey of members ahead of time regarding priorities to recommend to the Select Board
  - c. Invite Aaron, new economic development director, potentially to next meeting to introduce him to WCAT
  - d. 4th Wednesday meetings moving forward
7. Adjourn