

Public Policy and Environmental Action Team Minutes

February 13, 2024 6-7 PM

Via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82887198993?pwd=cS83TUlpK1NLM2UzUEtyOGFMMFBxQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 8719 8993

Passcode: 100294

Facilitator: Ruth Roemer

Minutes: Charles Skold

The Cathedral of St. Luke sits on unceded Wabanaki territory. We acknowledge that we have benefitted from the exploitation and subjugation of those whom our forebears failed to understand and honor.

We also acknowledge the legacy of colonization embedded within the technology, structures, and ways of thinking we use every day, leaving significant carbon footprints and contributing to changing climates that disproportionately affect indigenous people worldwide.

Let us acknowledge all this, and take collective responsibility to make good use of our meeting time, and to work towards dismantling the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism, to preserve lands and waters for future generations, and to support indigenous sovereignty.

Reflection

O God, who out of nothing
brought everything that is,
out of what I am bring more of what I dream
but haven't dared; direct my power and passion
to creating life.
Where there is death,
to putting flesh of action on bare-boned intentions,
to lighting fires against the midnight of indifference, to throwing bridges of care
across canyons of loneliness; so I can look on creation,
together with you, and, behold, call it very good;
through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Ted Loder, "Bring More of What I Dream"
in Guerrillas of Grace

1. Announcements
 - a. Welcome Caleb Ireland, newest PPEAT member!!
2. Diocesan and legislative updates (John Hennessy, Dick Farnsworth)

- a. New legislative session update and potential action needed from PPEAT
- b. Sarah will forward John's weekly updates to the group
- 3. Ongoing matters
 - a. Review our [flier](#) (Charles and Ralph)
 - i. Status of flier update
 - ii. Change the Contact, add the non-partisan statement
 - iii. Print new copies for church and ask to put on the website
 - iv. Can we have the updates done by coffee hour this Sunday?
 - 1. Yes Charles and Ralph will work on making this change this week
 - 2. Will send to Avery for printing
 - b. Coffee Hour 2/18 hosting Greg Payne from the Governor's Office to speak about affordable housing
 - i. Offers of food include:
 - 1. Jeri E. – cheese & crackers
 - 2. Barbara R. – fruit plate
 - 3. Sarah B. – half and half
 - 4. Paula G. – deviled eggs
 - 5. Sam A. – bagels
 - 6. Eleanor R. – 'food'
 - ii. Offers for set-up/clean-up
 - 1. Ruth
 - 2. Sarah
 - 3. Sam
 - 4. Eleanor – if possible
 - iii. John – does Greg need any AV support?
 - 1. Yes, a microphone
 - 2. Ask Greg if he is ok with us recording it over zoom
 - iv. Someone(s) to facilitate the conversation with Greg (1 or 2 people)
 - 1. John can facilitate
 - a. What topics do we want to make sure Greg talks about?
 - i. How to meet the demand for 84,000 units?
 - 1. Maine Housing released report on the housing needs over the next decade
 - ii. Resources from Eleanor's research
 - 1. [Maine Housing report](#)
 - 2. [Maine Public article](#)
 - 3. [Midcoast Council of Governments](#)
 - iii. Maine's historic underproduction of housing
 - 1. Covid and supply chain
 - 2. We need to be building way more housing

3. Some regions need to double the number of houses that are being permitted each year
 - a. Central/Western Maine needs the biggest change relative to where they currently are
 - iv. Rising price is a huge barrier
 1. 84% of Mainers can't afford
 2. Income needs to be at least \$100,000 to afford a house
 - a. Median Maine household income is \$68,000
 3. Young people who should be entering the housing market are not able to enter the market
 - c. Recycling/plastic/coffee hour composting (Sarah)
 - i. A lot of paper plates, coffee, food scraps can be composted
 1. Need more awareness and information about what can be composted
 - ii. Tim is taking the bin home for recycling, but not a lot of people using it
 - iii. Sarah will follow up with Meredith
 - d. Earth Keeper update (Sarah)
 - i. PPEAT is the EArthkeeper for St. Luke's, with Sarah being the chair/spokesperson
 - ii. [Link to plans and resources](#)
 - iii. Should the focus be on individual or legislative action?
 1. We agree with Sarah to focus on legislation
 - e. Diocesan Climate Justice Council update (Barbara)
 - i. working on a territory acknowledgement for the climate justice council
4. New matters
 - a. Governor Mills special meeting January 23 (Jeri was not able to attend)
 - b. In the annual calendar for PPEAT, March is designated as the time to consider if we have any Diocesan Convention resolution --Thoughts/suggestions/volunteers?
 - i. Bring ideas to next meeting
 1. Solitary confinement?
 - a. Dick will look in to it
 2. Climat/Environment
 - a. Sarah will look in to it
 - c. Earth Week April 21-27

- i. Need a volunteer to take the lead, with a few others, to prepare a proposal for St. Luke's

- 1. Barbara can help, but only until end of March
 - 2. Eleanor can help

- a. Sarah will email Eleanor what we did in previous years

- d. Invitation to tour Ecomaine - ANY UPDATE/ or action to be taken?

- i. Janene Gorham, Earth Keeper at St. Peter's will be inviting us and a number of other churches to tour Ecomaine. Date TBD

[Virtual Tour of Ecomaine](#)

- e. Conservation Lobby Day (Ruth) – April 10 from 8am to 12pm

- i. Meet with Maine Conservation Voters and legislators at the Cross Café in the Burton M. Cross Building, across from the State House 111 Sewall St. Augusta, ME 04330

- 1. Ruth will remind us again at March meeting

- a. [Link to register for the lobby day](#)
 - b. enough interest to car pool?

- f. Other matters?

- 5. Next meeting: March 12, 2024, 6-7pm via Zoom

- a. For this month, send agenda items to Charles instead of Ruth

- 6. Follow-up action items for future meeting:

- a. [Solar Faithful](#) (Sarah) – No initial meeting will happen until Spring. Working on it, but taking longer than initially anticipated

- i. Ted Gaiser has asked the Climate Council to find a piece of property for a solar farm.

- 1. Requirements

- a. About 5 acres
 - b. Relatively flat land close to the road.
 - c. Unshaded and not in a designated wetland area.
 - d. Land close to 3 phase power lines (as opposed to single phase)
 - e. Land that is mortgage free.

- 2. The benefit to the lessee is that the leased property will realize between \$1,500 - \$2,000 per acre of rent per year which is between \$7,500 to \$10,000 of rent per year (25 year lease).