*City of Biddeford*
**Conservation Commission**
**May 22, 2024 6:00 PM City Hall**
**Council Chambers & Zoom**
**https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/92636503583?pwd=YVIxT24xMmVyUDB4ZjR3Qit6MjFEZz09**
**Webinar ID #926 3650 3583, Passcode 023144**

**Status: Conservation Commission, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 6:00 PM, Council Chambers & Zoom**

1. **Adjustments to Agenda**
2. **Secretary Report**
   - 2.1. Approve Meeting Minutes for 3-27-24
     BCC-Meeting-Notes-2024-03-27.pdf
3. **Discussions**
   - 3.1. Budget 24-25
   - 3.2. UNE Capstone presentations archive? Continuing conflicts/audio-video hiccups/multi-media
   - 3.3. Map 1, Lot 19 and.....
   - 3.4. Clifford Park easement: Rec Commission collaboration; sustainability ad hoc
   - 3.5. Climate Cluster
     5-22-24 Global Heating Blast.pdf
   - 3.6. Rabbitat event: June 8, 2024; Turtle x-ing signs deployed
   - 3.7. HoBo data logger
4. **Other Business**
5. **Next Meeting-June 26, 2024**
6. **Adjourn**

**Biddeford Conservation Commission**

Thursday, December 18, 2023

6:04pm - 7:48pm

*Attendees: R. Rhames, D. Rioux, M. Atlas, P. Robbins, M. Lowell, P. Conlon, and E. Heumiller*
*Guests: Keith Fletcher and David Galbraith*

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Meeting called to order: 6:02p

I. Motion to approve minutes from 3.4.24 – M. Atlas
   A. Second - P. Conlon
   B. No Discussion
   C. Unanimous

II. Presentation - Keith Fletcher MCHT
   A. Project Manager for MCHT
      1. Works with landowners and partners to help them conserve land (advice and sometimes doing the fundraising and acquisition)
   B. Land acquisition or easements as primary tools of their business
   C. They don't hold the easement
   D. MNRCP - additional level of protection under a different body of law than an easement
   E. Formerly Clare property
      1. Roughly 2008
         a) Earliest effort was to acquire full thousand acres
         b) Had previously not been surveyed for rare or tracked species
         c) Appraised around 1.2M
      2. Maine Water Co. bought the property
         a) President was interested in conservation easement
         b) Solar array will be placed on the excluded lands
            (1) Roughly 6 acres
         c) Conservation easement, public trail + parking (267 acres)
            (1) Concerns about expanding the trails too much would impact wildlife (M. Lowell)
            (2) Bear, whitetail, fischer cats, bobcats, river otters, etc. currently use this parcel (M. Lowell)
            (3) MCHT will have limited parking, 14/15 spots, and develop a single trail to try to limit over use (K. Fletcher)
         d) BCC is interested in the legacy water company parcel (roughly 100 acres) that is mostly swamp and abuts Andrews Rd.
      3. You mentioned some occasions when MCHT process was challenged by Maine Water process – what were those?
         a) How long was the process? (2 years) (typical is within 9 months)
         b) Depends on resource inventory, and desire/timeline of landowner's tax needs
      4. City land can be presumed to be "conservation land" as a secondary easement
         a) MCHT has templates for that
   F. How does the planning and trail systems work (M. Atlas)
      1. How does adding restrictions to trails work?

a) Trails expertise is within MCHT
b) There's flexibility within the easement to change trails

G. Raise enough funds for legal defense, and so the interest gives you enough funds for stewardship (essentially an endowment).
    1. Can be around $500,000 for a stewardship endowment
H. Would MCHT be able to extend the current easement to all of Clifford Park.
    1. Keith in favor, could take it to the MCHT board
    2. City of Biddeford would need to be in agreement
I. MCHT workshops to teach landowners about their options.
    1. Maine Land Trust Network - mostly trusts
        a) Keith could come give a talk/presentation to educate city

III. VRMP
A. Add thatcher Brook
B. Addie Halligan interested in
C. Virtual training - end of April
    1. Followed by in-person training
D. 2-3 sampling units
E. We might be able to acquire and install a hobo logger ($1500)
    1. Software free
    2. Connector unit $200
F. Kristin to join in person for the finalization

IV. BCC Budget 24/25
A. D. Galbraith informed R. Rhames about the budget committee/council meeting
B. City Manager is recommending $3000/year (R. Rhames)
C. HOBO loggers could be an option

V. Comp Plan
A. Adi joining City staff to replace Eric
    1. Has an environmental background
B. Alex Redfield replacement has settled in, R. Rhames has yet to ask about the status of Comp Plan review — currently Biddeford not listed on their website. (R. Rhames)

VI. Draft Clifford Park Easements
A. City retains regulatory rights
B. In order to change an easement, both the landowner, holder, and attorney general have to be in agreement on the change.
    1. Needs to improve the conservation aspect or be in the public interest
C. New park parcels acquired via the land swap are not yet logged in GIS
    1. Likely updated around 4/1/2024
D. BCC members to read through existing easement to be ready for easement recommendations to Policy Committee (R. Rhames)

VII. Solar Ground Installation Ordinance
A. BCC to construct a draft of our desired language and elements of the ordinance to hand off to D. Galbraith. (E. Heumiller)
B. If the City regulates something beyond the State's rules, the City becomes responsible for enforcing it. (R. Rhames)
C. Need to ensure there is a system to avoid people following "state" rules to clear land, then coming to "city" to ask for a development. (P. Robbins)

1. We should institute a separate ordinance that set parameters for how long you have to wait between a clear cut and a development. (5 years) (P. Robbins)
2. BCC could draft ordinance language and present it to the planning board (M. Atlas, D. Galbraith)

D. We could also include recommendations on where we think solar should/should not go. (D. Galbraith)

E. BCC to review MFLT guidelines, and highlight sections of the existing (2020) ordinance language, and Fryeburg's ordinance for our April meeting.

VIII. Website Content

A. Edits to be distributed early April for review

IX. City Parcel Tax Map

A. Tax Map 1, Lot 19 — supposed to be in conservation

1. D. Galbraith to follow up with the city to see what happened

B. Tax Map 1, Lot 69, 70 — BSA lot

1. There is interest in a conservation easement
2. They want to retain management rights and access

X. Working and Open Lands Index

A. R. Rhames spoke to Mark Ward about helping with this

XI. Other Business

A. BCC used to be a member of the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions

B. D. Rioux made motion, P. Robbins seconded

C. Unanimous vote

D. Maya to fill out membership form and submit to Nan

XII. Next meeting 4/24

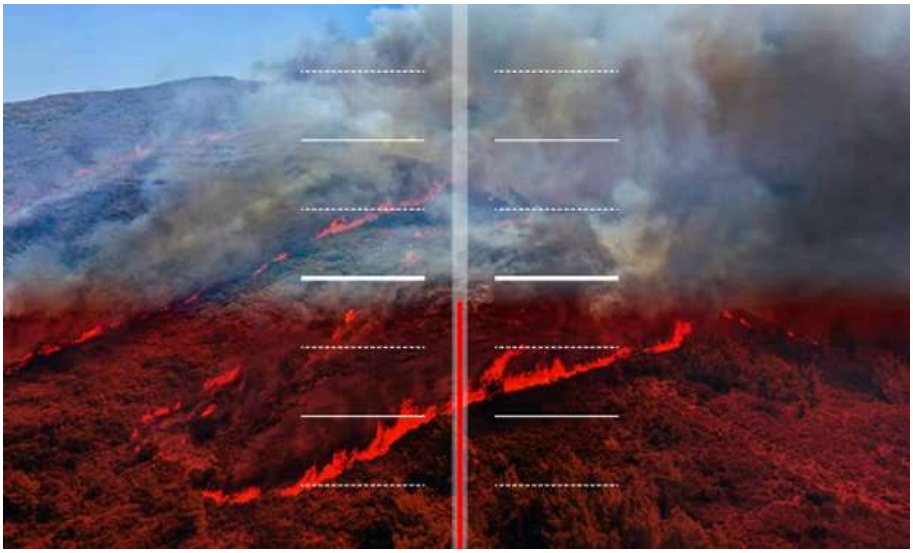
XIII. Adjourn 7:59

Climate crisis

# World's top climate scientists expect global heating to blast past 1.5C target

**Exclusive: Planet is headed for at least 2.5C of heating with disastrous results for humanity, poll of hundreds of scientists finds**

'Hopeless and broken': why the world's top climate scientists are in despair



The climate crisis is already causing profound damage to lives and livelihoods across the world. Illustration: Guardian Design/Halil Kahraman

**Damian Carrington** *Environment editor*

Wed 8 May 2024 05.00 EDT

Hundreds of the world's leading climate scientists expect global temperatures to rise to at least 2.5C (4.5F) above preindustrial levels this century, blasting past internationally agreed targets and causing catastrophic consequences for humanity and the planet, an exclusive Guardian survey has revealed.

Almost 80% of the respondents, all from the authoritative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), foresee at least 2.5C of global heating, while almost half anticipate at least 3C (5.4F). Only 6% thought the internationally agreed 1.5C (2.7F) limit would be met.

Many of the scientists envisage a "semi-dystopian" future, with famines, conflicts and mass migration, driven by heatwaves, wildfires, floods and storms of an intensity and frequency far beyond those that have already struck.

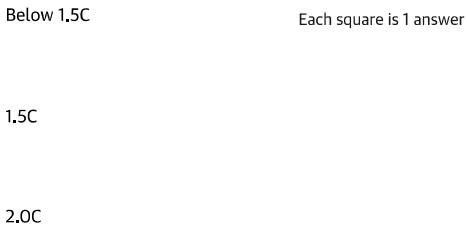
Numerous experts said they had been left feeling hopeless, infuriated and scared by the failure of governments to act despite the clear scientific evidence provided.

"I think we are headed for major societal disruption within the next five years," said Gretta Pecl, at the University of Tasmania. "[Authorities] will be overwhelmed by extreme event after extreme event, food production will be disrupted. I could not feel greater despair over the future."

**How high will global heating go?**

How high above pre-industrial levels do you think average global temperature will rise between now and 2100?

Count of answers given by IPCC climate experts




But many said the climate fight must continue, however high global temperature rose, because every fraction of a degree avoided would reduce human suffering.

Peter Cox, at the University of Exeter, UK, said: "Climate change will not suddenly become dangerous at 1.5C - it already is. And it will not be 'game over' if we pass 2C, which we might well do."

The Guardian approached every contactable lead author or review editor of IPCC reports since 2018. Almost half replied, 380 of 843. The IPCC's reports are the gold standard assessments of climate change, approved by all governments and produced by experts in physical and social sciences. The results show that many of the most knowledgeable people on the planet expect climate havoc to unfold in the coming decades.

The climate crisis is already causing profound damage to lives and livelihoods across the world, with only 1.2C (2.16F) of global heating on average over the past four years. Jesse Keenan, at Tulane University in the US, said: "This is just the beginning: buckle up."

Nathalie Hilmi, at the Monaco Scientific Centre, who expects a rise of 3C, agreed: "We cannot stay below 1.5C."

The experts said massive preparations to protect people from the worst of the coming climate disasters were now critical. Leticia Cotrim da Cunha, at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, said: "I am extremely worried about the costs in human lives."

The 1.5C target was chosen to prevent the worst of the climate crisis and has been seen as an important guiding star for international negotiations. Current climate policies mean the world is on track for about 2.7C, and the Guardian survey shows few IPCC experts expect the world to deliver the huge action required to reduce that.

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Younger scientists were more pessimistic, with 52% of respondents under 50 expecting a rise of at least 3C, compared with 38% of those over 50. Female scientists were also more downbeat than male scientists, with 49% thinking global temperature would rise at least 3C, compared with

38%. There was little difference between scientists from different continents.

Dipak Dasgupta, at the Energy and Resources Institute in New Delhi, said: “If the world, unbelievably wealthy as it is, stands by and does little to address the plight of the poor, we will all lose eventually.”

The experts were clear on why the world is failing to tackle the climate crisis. A lack of political will was cited by almost three-quarters of the respondents, while 60% also blamed vested corporate interests, such as the fossil fuel industry.

Many also mentioned inequality and a failure of the rich world to help the poor, who suffer most from climate impacts. “I expect a semi-dystopian future with substantial pain and suffering for the people of the global south,” said a South African scientist, who chose not to be named. “The world’s response to date is reprehensible - we live in an age of fools.”

About a quarter of the IPCC experts who responded thought global temperature rise would be kept to 2C or below but even they tempered their hopes.

“I am convinced that we have all the solutions needed for a 1.5C path and that we will implement them in the coming 20 years,” said Henry Neufeldt, at the UN’s Copenhagen Climate Centre. “But I fear that our actions might come too late and we cross one or several tipping points.”

Lisa Schipper, at University of Bonn in Germany, said: “My only source of hope is the fact that, as an educator, I can see the next generation being so smart and understanding the politics.”

I hope you appreciated this article. Before you move on, I wanted to ask if you would consider supporting the Guardian’s journalism as we enter one of the most consequential news cycles of our lifetimes in 2024.

With the potential of another Trump presidency looming, there are countless angles to cover around this year’s election - and we'll be there to shed light on each new development, with explainers, key takeaways and analysis of what it means for America, democracy and the world.

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**Betsy Reed**
*Editor, Guardian US*

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