

MINUTES
TOWN OF BRUNSWICK RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
Brunswick Town Hall - Room 206
February 28, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Steven Weems at 4:30 PM.

Members present: Rep Poppy Arford, David Costello, Jamie Ecker (Chair), Jennifer Hicks (Zoom), Shelley Raymond, Tom Rumpf, Steven Weems, Stephen Wood (Zoom), Karen Topp, Kathy Wilson (Zoom).

Town personnel present: Jay Astle (Director of Public Works), Ashley Charleson (Environmental Planner, Department of Planning & Development)

Public present: Bill Good (Zoom)

Introductions of Committee Members and Town Personnel: Introduction provided by each person in attendance. Steve Weems chaired the meeting.

Administrative & Brief Updates

Approval of January 24, 2023 Minutes: Moved by Tom Rumpf, seconded by David Costello. Approved unanimously by those present. Karen abstained.

Update on Committee Charter: The proposed Committee Charter was distributed via email with updates. It will now go to the Appointments Committee on March 8th, and should go in front of the Town Council within a month for final approval.

Maine Climate Resiliency Grant, General Update

- Ashley provided an update on where staff are with the Climate Action Plan process. Working with the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), they are in stage one, which includes establishing a planning task force, a kick-off meeting between Town Staff and GPCOG, and initiating data collection efforts. The task force charge and memo are going to Council on March 6th. Once approved by the Council, we can share with anyone who may be interested in applying (it is currently not shared with the public).
- Two seats on the task force will be held by R&S Committee members, within the Sustainability and Adaptation sector. Other members of the Committee can also apply and take up other spots if interested. Applicants will need to be interviewed by the Appointments Committee.
- Jamie Ecker made a motion to support and recommend the formation of a Climate Action Plan Planning Task Force and use of the draft charge. Seconded by Tom Rumpf. Unanimously approved. Jamie will share Committee support at next Council mtg.
- Committee Members should let Jamie Ecker or Steve Weems know if they are interested in being on the Climate Action Plan task force by Wednesday, March 8th.

- The discussion of the Climate Action Mandate was moved to a future meeting.

R&S Public Education Proposal

- Jamie Ecker introduced a proposal to change the structure of the Public Education sub-committee. The proposal is to eliminate the public education committee, which is currently siloed from the two other committees. Current gaps in our capacity with this structure include the ability to get the word out on important items through social media, the Town's website, press, etc. The proposal is to instead have one point person from the committee who could take the assignment on as "media facilitator" to work with the Town on the website, press releases, how to get word out on items, while supporting other committees, and work with Town staff.
- Interested committee members should reach out to Jamie Ecker.

Energy & Sustainability Committee:

- Steven Weems presented updates on recent actions of the subcommittee. how to bring down to earth tips to residents. Also, discussion of creating EV charging stations along route 1 from Portland to Ellsworth.

Solid Waste Updates:

- Stephen Wood and Jay Astle presented the solid waste committee updates. Jay is providing data on metrics for recycling. Jamie & Stephen met with the Brunswick High School Sustainability club to create videos about recycling. They are also considering a cafeteria audit on food waste.
- Jay announced that there are now two new compost bins added to both of the drop-off locations. There have been issues with the public works location not being able to be collected due to snow clearing logistics, so they are working on a solution.

Public Comment

- Bill Good mentioned he does use the Industrial Road compost location and appreciates that resource. Thanks for the work.

Climate Action Mandate

- Steve Weems will circulate the Climate Action mandate draft. Committee members should review the attachment and send in any thoughts to Steve and Jamie by the next meeting.

Adjournment

- Upon a motion made by David Costello and seconded by Karen Topp, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:00 pm.