

MINUTES
TOWN OF BRUNSWICK RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
Brunswick Town Hall – Council Chambers
April 25, 2023

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

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

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. James Ecker chaired the meeting.

Administrative & Brief Updates

Approval of March 28 Minutes: Moved by Steven Wood, seconded by David Costello. Approved unanimously by those present.

Update on Committee Charter: The proposed Committee Charter is awaiting vote by 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. Working with the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), they are deep into the data collection stage.
- There were 24 applicants interviewed by the Appointments Committee for the planning task force. The slate is on the Council agenda for 5/1 for a vote. Ashley expects the kick-off call for this task force to be in mid-May.

Legislative Updates:

- Poppy provided an update on some of the bills being presented during this session of the legislature. She expects to be able to give a more detailed update in May when more bills have moved further along the process. There are over 2,000 bills being proposed. The bill tracking page on NRCM's website tracks the status of all bills related to environmental causes (<https://www.nrcm.org/programs/state-house/legislative-bill-tracking/>). A few of the bills Poppy mentioned were LD 1171 Increase fees for solid waste generators, LD1172 Reporting on Waste Reduction, LD1009 Establishes goals and requirements to reduce and divert food waste in Maine, and LD 134 Supporting redemption centers and Maine's Bottle Bill.

Solid Waste Committee Updates:

- Stephen Wood presented the solid waste committee updates. The date of the EcoMaine kick-off event has been set for Saturday, August 19th from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, in conjunction with the Brunswick Outdoor Arts Festival. Garbage to Gardens, EcoMaine, and AgriCycle will all be present. There will be four committee members there throughout the day to represent and help set up.
- Jamie updated the committee on the Brunswick High School organics video and will reach out to the committee when volunteers are needed.

Energy & Sustainability Committee:

- Steven Weems provided a presentation on the benefits of window dressers, which ties in closely with this committee's goal #6 focused on energy efficiency. The program is run by a nonprofit organization, Window Dressers, and works with volunteers to build the frame style units that provide insulation for drafty windows. Steven Weems and Tom Rumpf are on the leadership team of the Brunswick workdays for this group – reach out to them with any questions. An official vote was not taken, but there was wide support from the Committee for the work of this organization in Brunswick.
- Steven Weems provided an update on public vehicle charging stations, as related to goal #5. There are two current initiatives related to this involving Level 3 and Level 2 charging stations. The Town is looking at the feasibility of putting together proposals to the Efficiency Maine Trust to cover costs related to installation of these type of chargers.
- There was additional discussion on the goal of having more electric Town vehicles. Jay provided an update that those decisions are made by individual departments. Jamie and Steven will connect with the Town point person on purchasing vehicles.

News You Can Use:

- There was a tree care ordinance discussed at the last Town Council meetings. Details can be found in the Council packet.

Public Comment

- Bill Good commented on electric vehicle usage in a River Road condo association and echoed thanks for the work of the committee.

Adjournment

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