

**CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE
SOUTH PORTLAND ENERGY & RECYCLING COMMITTEE
Meeting Agenda**

**April 24, 2013 - Postponed from April, 17
So. Portland Community Center
2nd Floor Conference Room**

Call to order - 6:00pm.

- **Please note time change back to normal time**

Committee

- Todd Erickson - Chair - District 2
- Sabrina Dalton - Vice Chair - District 4
- Peter Wilson - Secretary - At Large
- Brian Wallace - District 5
- Bob Foster - At Large
- Heather Valley - District 4 Associate
- Jessica Williams - Associate - At Large
- Mike Howe - District 2 Volunteer
- Rita Thompson - District 1 - New appointee
- Doug Howard - City liaison
- Stan

Green Minute: Bring fresh ideas

- Solar electric project on Planning & Development Office
 - Update and presentation from John Capron from ReVision Energy John Capron (johnc@revisionenergy.com)
 - Description and explanation of the solar panels and the financing arrangement. The solar panels installed on the South Portland Planning and Development Building are Grid-tied solar electric panels which don't require battery back-up. They have a net-metering contract where the building uses the power generated by the panels and extra power is credited to the building. Credits expire after a year. 80 modules feed into 2 inverters. Near zero maintenance. Over production can be credited to another CMP account - so credit can go to another City of South Portland CMP account. The city will have the same electric bill, but it will be split between CMP and ReVision. The project was made possible by a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with REvision owning the system for 7 yrs. The reason this was done was because the city can't get tax credits for the panels, but Revision can. The system cost Revision \$75,000 to install. After 7 years, the city has the option to buy the system for about \$20,000. In theory, 5 yrs after the city buys the system it will be paid for. The system has a 40year life span. It produces about 2000 kWh/month. April it was 2400/month. 80% performance warranted for 25 yrs. The solar panels are off-setting 32,000 pounds of carbon each year. The PPA is great for municipalities and non-profits who can't benefit from the tax credits. Online monitoring - there is or will be a link on the new Planning and Development website. No economy of scale with solar. Solar heating

of the Community Center pool was raised and Bob and others informed the group that solar panels weren't possible because there was an engineering issue with the roof.. ReVision has locations in Liberty, Portland and Exeter, NH.

Old Business:

- Acceptance of February's minutes
- Acceptance of March minutes
- Carbon Action Plan-Phase II presentation
 - Karen Purinton presented a draft of her findings and recommendations for the city that comprise her capstone project. She will present the committee with a final version that can be used for future reference.

The question of whether to include the issue of natural gas into our discussions came up.

Membership Report and Updates:

- Introduction to Rita Thompson- unfortunately this was brief as Rita had another meeting to attend.
- Heather Valley's intends to reapply for her seat.
- Bob Foster report on City Council activities and goals
 - Implementation committee for the comp. plan should be in place within the next couple of months.
 - committee recognition - committees will report to the council at least annually.
 - council workshops will be televised.

New Business: Bring fresh ideas

- P/R, media, and education outreach plans
 - New Facebook page for ERC is still in the works. Sue Mooney should be contacted to vet any material for the city newsletter or any facebook content.
 - Communications committee to come up with a strategy before next meeting - blog posts and how to get the media involved.
- Mike updated the committee further on his inquiry into recycling in the city.
 - The city has had 29% diversion rate for the last 3 years. He spoke with Missy at EcoMaine about how this number is calculated. The numbers are reported by the municipality and paid for by it. The diversion rate includes all curbside that is included in the municipal program and silver bullets, some small business tonnage. The city does not collect from multifamily buildings and the private haulers do not report tonnage numbers for those not included in the city program. So the 29% is not an accurate description of what or how much the community does or doesn't recycle. How do we improve the program that is already in place.
 - Stan: There's currently no monetary incentive to recycle. Doug is looking into tracking system for recycling and trash bins that would make it possible to more clearly identify those that are contaminating their recycling with trash.

- EcoMaine has a public outreach person that could consult with us. Leo Mayhew - outreach educator at EcoMaine.
- Mike let EcoMaine know that we're interested in the organics.
- Organics down the garbage disposal doesn't disappear, it goes to the water treatment plant.
- Todd: Water conservation and energy conservation linked
- More research is needed of other communities that have had success with high rates of recycling.
- Stan spoke with Doug Howard about how to increase recycling. Making it mandatory, in conjunction with a tracking system may be an important next step. Recycling is currently voluntary. Monitoring, man-power, etc. these are all barriers to implementing a mandatory system.
- Adjournment - 7:45

Next meeting: May 15, 2013 - 2nd Fl. Conference Room, Office Area.