

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE
SOUTH PORTLAND ENERGY & RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 16 , 2016

So. Portland Community Center

Large Conference Room

Call to order - 6:30 pm.

Committee

- Bob Foster - At Large (Beecher) Chair - **present**
- Clyde Barr - At Large (Beecher) - **present**
- Jessica Williams - At Large (Blake) Vice Chair - **present**
- Gregory Norton - At Large (Blake) - **present**
- Rita Thompson - District 1 - absent
- Rich Crowley - District 1 - absent
- Vacant - District 2
- Melinda Timpf - District 2 - **present**
- Vacant - District 3
- William Fritzmeier - District 3 - resigned
- Scott Lever - District 4 - **present**
- Patrick Cyr - District 4 - **present**
- David J. Cote - District 5 - absent
- Andrew Snyder - District 5 Secretary - **present**
- Julie Rosenbach - City Liaison - **present**
- Vacant - School Department Liaison

Visitors in attendance:

- Chris Rauscher - District 1
- Tyler Gleason - District 3

Membership Report and Updates:

- Introduction of new Members
- Administrative matter - Rich Crowley has a work conflict which will make him miss several of the upcoming meetings. Bob Foster asked the committee if Rich should be allowed to stay on the committee despite the absences. The committee voted 7 to 0 in favor of keeping Rich Crowley on the committee.
- Fred Dillon, Water Resources Protection, is looking for help from the committee to coordinate "April Stools Day" - pet poop pick up - on April 23. Interested members are asked to contact Bob Foster within the next week.

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Membership Report and Updates: (continued)

- Next meeting - April 20, 2016, will review Green House Gas (GHG) inventory. This will be a 2 hr meeting.

Old Business:

- Acceptance of February's minutes - Motion to accept by Melinda Timpf, second by Jessica Williams. Vote 8 to 0 to accept
- Newsletter - status of upcoming articles and due dates - Melinda Timpf, next article on Electronic Waste due 3/28. Need 2 volunteers April 11 - Tyler Gleason volunteered to do an article on Composting. Still need a volunteer for May 2, topic - Swap Shop at the Transfer Facility. Next article May 16.

New Business:

- E-Waste - Julie Rosenbach, South Portland doesn't have an e-waste program. She spoke with Fred Dillon, Water Resources Protection who commented that the city needs funding for such a program. Julie questioned whether the ERC could write a grant to fund e-waste collection and suggested that New England Grass Roots (NEGR) had grants that might fit. Bob Foster will look into available grants and post on g-drive
- Benchmarking - Julie Rosenbach, Part of and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan is a benchmarking ordinance. This ordinance requires large buildings (10+ units and/or greater than 5,000 sq. ft.) to report on energy and water use. Reporting can be done easily using utility bills and entering data into a software program. The program will compare the buildings to similar buildings and give feed back on relative utility use. Goal of ordinance is to make all buildings more efficient and profitable.
- Solar Landfill project - Julie Rosenbach:
 - Tex Haeuser, Planning Director, is working on amending the ordinance to allow more solar. Committee should review and support if appropriate.
 - Overview of the Solar Landfill Project - We know we can fit a 3 MegaWatt

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(MW) project and that a geotech study has been done which confirms that panels can be placed on the landfill. Two Requests for Proposals (RFP) were received and both were rejected.

- Currently - South Portland is cooperating with the City of Portland on joint landfill projects (South Portland Landfill off Highland Ave and Portland's landfill off Ocean Ave). New project will fill 12% of South Portland's municipal electric needs. By working with Portland, we are able to significantly reduce the costs of the South Portland project. Financing is through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with IGS Solar. IGS Solar provides all of the capital to construct the project, then South Portland pays IGS as follows - Years 1-6: South Portland pays a \$50,000/yr premium, Year 7: South Portland can purchase the project for \$1.6 million and all power is now free. Year 18 - Project has paid for itself. Financed this way, the project will produce power at approximately 7.5¢/KWH over the 40 year life span of the project. Projected savings are in the range of \$2-3 million. The City needs to advocate for a better state solar policy (LD 1649) and will negotiate for even better terms with Revision and IGS for the build costs.
- Solar legislation/initiatives - Chris Rauscher, LD 1649 sets up different market segments with competitive rates:
 - Small Business/Residential - PUC sets rate (probably 2X other rates)
 - Utility Scale - rates determined competitively
 - Commercial/Industrial - rates determined competitively
 - Community Solar - rates determined competitively

Chris does not expect the bill to pass. Without net metering, solar power is credited at a reduced rate (not the residential rate) closer to 6¢ vs 14¢/KWH, which makes solar power less attractive.

- Open Discussion
 - Bob Foster - Meeting Agendas will be posted on the Monday of the week

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prior to meeting. Notify Bob of any change requests by that Wednesday.

- Julie Rosenbach - Julie needs help reviewing/analyzing energy use data and comparisons to 2007 data. Also please forward any observations on compliance with the Plastic Bag/Styrofoam ordinance to Julie
- Melinda Timpf - Looking at the week of May 9 for a tour of EcoMaine. Tour needs to be on a weekday, probably in the morning. Melinda will e-mail everyone with information.

Adjournment - Jessica Williams moved to adjourn, seconded by Melinda Timpf.

Next meeting: Wed., April 20, 2016 - Community Center