

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

South Portland Energy and Recycling Committee

Meeting minutes from June 17 , 2015

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) Secretary - **Present**
- Gregory Norton - At Large (Blake) - **Present**
- Rita Thompson - District 1 - **Absent**
- Vacant - District 1
- Todd Erickson - District 2 - **Present**
- Melinda Timpf - District 2 - **Present**
- Stanley Cox - District 3 - **Absent**
- William Fritzmeier - District 3 - **Present**
- Eric Knutsen - District 4 Vice Chair - **Present**
- Patrick Cyr- District 4 - **Present**
- Michael Shutts - District 5 - **Absent**
- Chris Gorman - District 5 - **Absent**
- Julie Rosenbach - City Liaison - **Present**
- Vacant - School Department Liaison

Old Business:

- **Acceptance of May's minutes:** Motion to accept - Jessica, seconded Eric, all in favor
- **Single use bags/Styrofoam** - GPCOG meeting on 6/10: Julie attended the meeting and said that the goal was to try a regional approach in implementing a fee or ban for Single use plastic bags and Styrofoam. However since many municipalities are already working on the issue and are all in different phases of discussion and implementation, it became clear that a regional approach would not work. South Portland will talk with other towns and try to do something that is as consistent as possible with other GPCOG communities, but South Portland will likely move forward with something similar to the Portland ordinance (sect. 12-210 - 5 cent fee for plastic and paper single use bags and ban on Styrofoam for food service businesses). South Portland will also copy Portland's outreach

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approach to the business community. Hannaford is donating the nickel fee collected, to a food bank. There is data that a fee works almost as well as a ban.

- **Municipal Climate Action Plan Update** - Julie reported to the committee - 5 new recycling bins have been purchased for public spaces - one will be piloted at Willard Beach with signage provided by Ecomaine. South Portland has chosen Garbage to Garden to provide a composting program at the Red Bank Community Teen Center and will provide compost for the community garden there as well. Garbage to Garden will also provide compost collection at the South Portland employee picnic. The goal is near zero waste for public events. Julie is putting together a press release. Garbage to Garden is looking for 6-8 volunteers to help out at the 4th of July celebration at Bug Light Park. A recent City council workshop on pesticides was well attended and Protect South Portland had a few speakers and now council wants to see ordinance language regarding eliminating pesticide use, by the upcoming workshop on July 13th. Julie presented a map illustrating how Phase One of the Climate Action Plan will be implemented by 2017. The plan is to focus on the Climate Action Plan at the ERC's next meeting in July.

Guest Speaker:

Leo Maheu from ecomaine. UPDATE on education and outreach efforts. ecomaine will again offer its grant program to schools for the next school year - info and applications are available on the ecomaine website and applications are due by October 30, 2015. Last year the grant program was very successful. Success at Small Elementary school success has inspired Dyer Elementary and Mahoney Middle schools to do the same. South Portland High School grant was used to keep an existing program going and the HS has now incorporated classroom recycling. Leo met last week with staff from Mahoney to talk about composting and recycling. Leo's services are always available and free.

Julie/Leo road show - Julie and Leo will be doing a talk on trash at the Public Library sometime in the near future. They are also working on doing an education event at the South Portland Community Center. Julie welcomes ideas for this event.

Leo has a virtual tour he uses and new outreach materials that are customizable and available for educational purposes.

Ecomaine is working to expand placement of recycling bins in public places.

Education intern Katie Shapiro from USM - working on cataloging and assessing silver bullets.

Lots of contamination coming in recycling, more dangerous things, like propane tanks, refrigerators, rope, chains, e waste.

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Membership Report and Updates:

New member Patrick Cyr from District 4 was present at the meeting.

New Business: Bring fresh ideas

- Revitalization of sub-committees - media- newsletter and sentry, research, outreach
- July 15th meeting cap plan discussion
- Willard fest same as last year looking for volunteers for bin monitoring.

Action Items:

- Melinda to write the next newsletter/Sentry article, Due to the Sentry by Monday June 29th.
- Jessica to write sentry article on 'dos and don'ts' of recycling. Include link to Ecomaine video. Due to the Sentry by Monday July 13th
- Jessica will make a board with samples of the ERC newsletter with a reminder to subscribe to city newsletter.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn - Melinda, Seconded by Clyde, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Next meeting: Wed., July 15, 2015 - Community Center