

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

South Portland Energy and Recycling Committee

Meeting Agenda

October 21 , 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 - **present**
- Rich Crowley - District 1 - **absent**
- Todd Erickson - District 2 - **present**
- Vacant - District 2
- Stanley Cox - District 3 -
- William Fritzmeier - District 3 - **present**
- Eric Knutsen - District 4 Vice Chair - **absent**
- Patrick Cyr - District 4 - **present**
- Michael Shutts - District 5 - **present**
- Vacant - District 5
- Julie Rosenbach - City Liaison - **Absent**
- Vacant - School Department Liaison

Josh Reny, Assistant City Manager and Economic Development Director attended the meeting to introduce himself and to listen and learn where he can be of the most help. Josh comes to South Portland from Fairfield, Waterville as town manager. He has interest and experience with both energy and recycling/waste issues.

Old Business:

- Acceptance of September's minutes
 - **motion to accept, Mike Shutts, Seconded by Rita Thompson**
- Updates on current City Council initiatives:

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- **RFP closed for bids on October 21, 2015 for solar photovoltaic project on 10 select City facilities. Thanks to the efforts of Tex Haeuser, Planning and Development Director, and several other municipalities, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) agreed to reduce the current rate for streetlights from 10 cents to 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour.**
- **Municipal Climate Action Plan: Subcommittee discussions:**
 - **Group 1: Rich C., Mike S. and Greg N.: post 2017 goals and using/presenting data to engage the public.**
 - **Group 2: Eric K., Rich C., Mike, Todd E., Jessica W.: Identify grant sources, best practices where cities are engaging innovations around sustainability. The Horizon Foundation is one option but we would need to partner with a nonprofit. NEGEF (New England Grassroots Environment Fund) is another option. We need additional options and need to be more specific about what we want the money for. Josh: Sustain Mid-Maine needed seed money to train volunteers to do a pre-energy audits. They applied for money through Efficiency Maine. This is a good example of partnering to obtain grant funding. The intention of the program was to nudge people to action by providing more info to people around weatherization and basic energy efficiency, with the hope that they will then take the next step. Efficiency Maine. Will: come up with ideas about what to do based on what other municipalities are doing.**
 - **Ultimately these two groups will combine efforts, after data is analysed and grant possibilities identified.**
- **Newsletter:**
 - **Jessica W. will contact the Sentry about doing an extra Sustainable SoPo article in order to keep articles in sync with City Newsletter.**

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- **Bob F. will write the next article on the Shredding event at the Library**
 - **Todd E will do an article for the following week “Saving Water, Saves Energy”**
 - **Josh R: suggested doing an article on medication disposal- don't flush it. He also suggested that having an annual communications plan for the committee would be ideal.**
 - **Will F.: Wondered if anyone had read the opinion piece in the NY Times a few weeks back against recycling. We might want to address this at some point.**
 - **Jessica will write an article: “What is Sustainability?”**
 - **Todd E. suggested doing a series of articles that would break down and explain why reusable bags are being promoted and plastic bags are being phased out - why are we doing these things? Find out what motivates different people to change their behavior and speak to those different audiences.**
 - **Jessica will update Google drive article queues document and send out email**
- **Membership Report and Updates:**
 - **Richard Foss-Lacey new member District 5.**
 - **Melinda Timpf is resigning due to new work schedule. District 2 now has vacancy.**

New Business:

School Department interactions/involvement:

- **Schools facilities manager or their representative is still not attending meetings of this committee. Several of the schools are in the process of establishing sustainability committees. Tanya Ferrante at the HS is heading this up. Bob will reach out to her in the next week or two to see if we can**

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get into that committee as a guest.

- **Grant idea: Use Tanya Ferrante's ideas and plans to outline a district-wide sustainability plan. This could be the basis of a grant proposal.**
- **Greg: when will 2007 data be ready so that subcommittee group 1 can start their work? We are on pace to shatter 2017 goals.**
- **Josh: data that julie is working in with cap is great.**
- **Todd: Noticed recently that the common areas of the HS are lit entirely with incandescent bulbs. Why not replace all with LEDs? Where can we or Tanya get replacement bulbs. Perhaps a grant of bulbs from Efficiency Maine?**
- **Bob: State of the Schools meeting with School Department at city council on October 26th.**
- **Josh: ask Russ if he would allow volunteers to take inventory of lighting. Todd will take this on talk to Russ.**
- **Will could do an article on HS bulb replacement after its done. Quantify it, look at the economics.**
- **Todd to set up group 1 and group 2 folders.**
- **Jessica: suggested putting out call for agenda items before it is finalized.**
- **Will: Are there sub-committee chairs? Yes, Eric will chair group 2.**
- **Jessica to send Sept. Minutes to Karen Morrill.**
- **Will: should we be doing articles in Google docs so that everyone can see changes? Yes would be better for everyone to see revisions.**
- **Google drive tutorial next meeting.**
- **Jreny@ southportland.org - contact with any questions, cc julie with any questions specific to this committee.**

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn: Jessica 2nd Clyde 7:53

Action Items:

- **Jessica W. will contact the Sentry about doing an extra Sustainable SoPo**

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article in order to keep articles in sync with City Newsletter.

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- **Jessica will update Google drive article queues document and send out email.**
- **Bob will reach out to Tanya Ferrante in the next week or two to see if we can get into that committee as a guest.**
- **Todd will take this on talk to Russ about incandescent bulbs at HS.**
- **Todd to set up group 1 and group 2 folders.**
- **Jessica to send Sept. Minutes to Karen Morrill.**

Next meeting: Wed., November 18, 2015 - Community Center