

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

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2014

So. Portland Community Center

Large Conference Room

Call to order - 6:00pm.

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Committee

- Peter Wilson - At Large (Beecher) - **Present**
- David Domingos - At Large (Blake) - **Present**
- Rita Thompson - District 1 - **Present**
- Todd Erickson - District 2 - **Absent**
- Stanley Cox - District 3 - **Absent**
- Heather Valley - District 4 - **Present**
- Michael Shutts - District 5 - **Present**
- Bob Foster - Associate - At Large (Beecher) Chair - **Present**
- Jessica Williams - Associate - At Large (Blake) Secretary - **Present**
- Melinda Timpf - Associate - District 1 - **Present**
- Mike Howe - Associate - District 2 - **Present**
- Julie Silverman - Associate - District 3 - **Present**
- Eric Knutsen - Associate - District 4 - **Present**
- Alisia Ives - Associate - District 5 - **Present**
- Doug Howard - City Liaison - **Present**
- Vacant - School Department Liaison - **Absent**

Old Business:

- Acceptance of January's minutes
 - Motion to Accept - Rita Thompson**
 - Seconded Heather Valley**
 - All in favor: Unanimous**
- Guest: Emily Freedman
 - Municipal Climate Action Plan Final Draft - **Emily confirmed the changes that were made since our last meeting with her. The few comments that were made, were to thank Emily for all her work.**

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE

SOUTH PORTLAND ENERGY & RECYCLING COMMITTEE

- **Heather Valley made a motion to recommend the Municipal Climate Action Plan to the City Council. The motion was seconded by Eric Knutsen.**
- Continue discussion about and development of sub-committees' responsibilities:
 - Communications/Public Relations - Todd + Heather
 - Begin work on next newsletter + blog posts for City newsletters
 - Overview of Maine's Right to Know Law - What are the rules for Boards and Committees?
 - Bob reviewed Maine's Right to Know Law as it pertains to the Energy and Recycling Committee. They are the same rules that apply to the City Council. All meetings are open to the public, all documents are public. Any gathering of 3 or more members of the committee is considered a "meeting", the content of which should be made available to the public.**

Old Business: (cont)

- 'City Minute' with Doug Howard
 - Informed the Committee that there may be a Solid Waste Workshop scheduled for April 28th, but this date is not yet confirmed. There is a half-time position in the current budget for a Sustainability Coordinator. Doug is now an APWA (American Public Works Association) liason.**
- Overview of EcoMaine group tour
 - A handful of Committee members took a tour of the EcoMaine facility which was an interesting and eye-opening experience. They encourage anyone who is interested to set up a tour. If you have a group of at least 3 people you can call EcoMaine to set up a tour.**
- Current status of Tax Bill insert - **Todd/Heather are working on this for the next tax bill**

'Green Minute': Bring fresh ideas

Brain storming ideas - future committee projects.

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE

SOUTH PORTLAND ENERGY & RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Multifamily Recycling: Bob distributed a printout of the “Garbage and Refuse” Ordinance for the City asking all members to review it and come up with ideas about how we as a committee can educate the citizens of South Portland about garbage and recycling, the ultimate goal being the reduction of waste.

Composting/Organics: The committee has learned that the Ecomaine Board sub-committee will recommend that Ecomaine NOT invest in an organics collection program for at least 2 to 3 years. Doug said he might be able to arrange a tour for Committee members of the Yarmouth composting facility sometime in the Spring or Summer.

Membership Report and Updates:

- Introduction to new member(s) + volunteers
- New members - please invite your friends and neighbors !

-Membership: 1st time that anyone can remember we have a full membership roster. We are still looking for volunteers to attend meetings, share ideas, and work with the committee on projects. Several members have terms expiring this year and need to reapply. Bob will notify each separately.

New Business: Bring fresh ideas

- Joint venture with Conservation Committee?
 - Currently placing this item on future agenda after ad hoc draft ordinance committee has completed its recommendations.
- P/R, media, and education outreach plans

Upcoming events that we will be working on:

-Earth Day April 19th, kickoff at 9:00Am Mill Creek Park

-Willard Fest July 19th - Todd will coordinate this for next meeting

-SoPo Buy Local Bug Light Festival Aug.16th

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

Brian storming - Tour of waste water treatment plant, discussion of storm water management

-Some outreach with other municipalities and schools for ideas and collaboration. -Exploring issues and problems to find solutions to deal with potential roadblocks.

Motion to adjourn Eric 2nd Mike.

Adjournment - 7:40 PM

Next meeting: Wed., April 16, 2014 - Large Conference Room