

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

South Portland Energy and Recycling Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 18 , 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 **Absent**
- Gregory Norton - At Large (Blake) **Absent**
- Rita Thompson - District 1 **Present**
- Rich Crowley - District 1 **Present**
- Todd Erickson - District 2 **Present**
- Melinda Timpf - District 2 **Present**
- Vacant - District 3
- William Fritzmeier - District 3 **Absent**
- Eric Knutsen - District 4 Vice Chair **Absent**
- Patrick Cyr - District 4 **Present**
- Michael Shutts - District 5 **Present**
- Richard Foss-Lacey - District 5 **Absent**
- Julie Rosenbach - City Liaison **Absent**
- Vacant - School Department Liaison

Members of the public in attendance - Jacob Parent & Abbie Shaw - Both are students at USM attending to complete research for a course project.

Membership Report and Updates:

On Oct. 22nd we lost Stan Cox to his battle with cancer. Stan was a founding member of the Recycling Committee which later became the Energy and Recycling Committee. During his tenure with both committees Stan was instrumental in providing knowledge to the community to make informed decisions on recycling and waste reduction actions and programs. Stan will be very missed.

We are currently seeking someone to replace Stan for district three(3).

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Old Business:

- Acceptance of October's minutes
Motion to accept, Rita Thompson, Seconded by Mike Shutts.
- Updates on current City Council initiatives

The pesticide issue has been postponed, possibly until late January to allow sufficient time to gather all the facts and opinions. This is a very complex issue and the city wants to ensure that it gets done right the first time.

A letter was sent by the Conservation Commission to the City Council and the City Manager prompted by the current debate over the Rigby Yard Liquid Petroleum (LPG) Proposal. The letter in effect opens the discussion of South Portland's Future Management of Affordable, Clean, and Sustainable Energy Alternatives. Based on the letter, the Energy and Recycling Committee should conduct discussions in the near future. Bob provided an overview of the current proposal and the status of city actions.

The City Council held discussions on the proposed heating system to be used in the new Public Works facility. The original proposal was based on faulty information that had been provided to the city and project manager. After vetted information was obtained, it was determined that a natural gas actually was available. In the long run it was determined that it would be more cost efficient to use natural gas rather than biomass. The majority of the current discussion centers on the actual carbon footprint involved in the biomass arena. After the workshop it appears that the majority of the City Council is leaning toward natural gas.

- Google Drive Training Session
 - **Training postponed due equipment issues.**
- Municipal Climate Action Plan: Subcommittee discussions:
 - Group 1: Define 1-3 action items
 - Data should be available in January to proceed with work.**

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE
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Group 2: Define 1-3 action items

Preliminary work has begun on gathering information for “best practices” around innovative actions taken by other cities.

Question posed to determine a future conversation on holding separate work group meetings for subcommittees. Although this will entail separate public meetings and all the administrative details the question should be discussed.

New Business:

School Department interactions/involvement

Light Bulb conversion?

Due to personal commitments Todd has not had sufficient time to move this forward. Is still working on this and will report back in Decemeber.

Bob has made initial contact with Mr. Ken Kunin, The Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Kunin brings a more open and cooperative attitude to the discussion. He has given permission to contact staff and supports the committees efforts moving forward.

Adjournment - **Motion to adjourn: Mike Shutts, 2nd Clyde Barr 7:55.**

Next meeting: Wed., December 16, 2015 - Community Center