

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

South Portland Energy and Recycling Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2015

So. Portland Community Center

Large Conference Room

Call to order - 6:30 pm.

Committee

- Bob Foster - At Large (Beecher) Chair - **Present**
- Jessica Williams - At Large (Blake) Secretary - **Present**
- Rita Thompson - District 1 - **Absent**
- Todd Erickson - District 2 - **Present**
- Stanley Cox - District 3 - **Present**
- Heather Valley - District 4 - **Present**
- Michael Shutts - District 5 - **Present**
- Clyde Barr - At Large (Beecher) - **Absent**
- Vacant - Associate - At Large (Blake)
- Melinda Timpf - Associate - District 1 - **Present**
- Mike Howe - Associate - District 2 - **Present**
- William Fritzmeier - Associate - District 3 - **Present**
- Eric Knutsen - Associate - District 4 Vice Chair - **Present**
- Adrian Dowling - Associate - District 5 - **Present**
- Julie Rosenbach - City Liaison - **Present**
- Vacant - School Department Liaison -

Old Business:

- Acceptance of February's minutes - **Motion to accept: Eric Knutsen, seconded by: Mike Howe.**
- 'City Minute' with Julie Rosenbach - **Julie is the new Sustainability Coordinator for the City. She has been spending her time getting the lay of the land, meeting with different departments.**
- **At the invitation of Councilor Blake Bob attended the GPCOG's Mobilize Maine Energy Action Team "Energy Drinks" meeting. The presentation**

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centered on IDEXX's ParXX and Sustainable Transportation Program. As part of the program we were provided with a tour of the Synergy Center, a LEED gold certified building that boasts state-of-the-art energy conservation and efficiency measures.

- During the last week Bob has been working with Chris Dumais the cities IT director to repair the link to the Municipal Climate Action Plan. As of mid-day Tuesday the MCAP is available on the City web page and does not require signing in. (It's a public document).
- Melinda suggested that a copy of the MCAP be printed and bound and made available to the public. Julie said she could make that happen.
- During this same time Bob found that the Recycling Statistics on the Ecomaine website have not been updated since Nov. 2014. He contacted Frank Gallagher - Communications Director at EcoMaine. Frank investigated and found a bug in the database architecture which he is working to correct. He hopes to have it corrected by the end of the week.
- Data gathering for schools
- Jessica received a summary of the composting program at Small Elementary School from 5th grade teacher, Abby Morgan. This summary was included in the ERC section of the City newsletter.
- Will had a conversation with Memorial Middle School principal. They have not made recycling and composting a high priority but would like to get it going. They are open to suggestions.
- Julie asked if a pilot recycling program could be done with Pine Tree
- Mike H. reminded us that the recycling collection with the schools is not a uniform system and it is difficult to track data for the schools specifically
- Melinda is still trying to get in touch with someone at Brown.
- Discussion of difficulty in getting leadership from top school administrators regarding setting policy for recycling and composting in the schools.

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- **Bob shared a news article about Seattle, Washington’s mandatory, municipal organics collection program.**
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2015/01/26/381586856/tossing-out-food-in-the-trash-in-seattle-you-ll-be-fined-for-that>
- Consolidated media program
- **Mike Howe gave a brief explanation of our recent efforts to increase our engagement with the public about energy and recycling in the City. He has been in touch with the Sentry newspaper and they have decided to publish short articles submitted by this committee. Mike agreed to draft an introductory piece that he would submit to the committee for input/editing.**
- **Discussion followed about the focus and details of the article.**
- **Julie suggested that in this first article, we set a South Portland recycling rate goal as a way to help motivate and unify the public. We can look at the diversion rates of some neighboring towns and say, “We want to be the best!”**
- **Future articles will introduce information and tips about recycling to help move the City toward this goal.**
- **Incentives are necessary if we are to increase our diversion rate and the city has explored different options - pay per bag, and RFI tags on trash and recycling bins - but a numeric goal is what we can do in the immediate short term.**
- **There was some debate about how high to set the goal - 40% may be too high at least in the short term.**
- **Motion by Bob to set goal of 35% recycling rate within 2 years, and a goal of 40% within 4 years. Seconded by Todd. Vote was unanimous, in favor of setting these goals.**

‘Green Minute’:

- **Todd’s son submitted the winning design for the City’s electric vehicles.**

Membership Report and Updates:

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- **New member William Fritzmeier District 3**
- **We are still looking for a member from Councilor Blake to fill an at large vacancy. In accordance with section 2-136 (a) There shall be no more than four (4) voting members from any one voting district.**
- **The same paragraph designates “The School Department Facilities and Grounds Director or his/her designee (non-voting).**

New Business: Bring fresh ideas

- **Single use bags and styrofoam: Councilor Fox requested this as a workshop item. Bob would like to gather and present research for the workshop**
- **Will has put together some research already - California; Seattle, WA; Austin, Tx; Portland, ME; Falmouth, ME have all addressed this issue to some degree.**
- **Melinda thought this would be a good issue for collaboration with the Conservation Committee.**

Adjournment - **Motion to Adjourn: Heather; Seconded: Mike Howe; All in favor.**

Time: 8:10pm

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