

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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Sept 19, 2018**  
**6:30pm – 8:00pm**

**S. Portland Community Center**  
**Senior Center Table**

**Committee Members**

Jessica Williams - District 1 – **Vice-Chair A**  
Andrew Capelluti - District 2 – **Chair P**  
Daniel Paul- District 3 A  
Taylor Strubell – District 2 **Secretary P**  
Michele Danois – District 2 A  
Jaime Madore – District 2 P  
Jessica Walker District 4 P

Vacant - School Department Liaison  
Lucy Brennan - City Liaison A  
Joseph Fournier - District 5 P  
Ellen Zimmerman District 2 P

**Call to Order – 6:45pm**

Andrew stated that the City Council is looking for ideas from the ERC for sustainability and energy saving ideas, and that Eben Rose is looking for solar car chargers similar to Umass, Amherst. The city can't afford to buy the chargers, but there are ways to lease them and maybe get some of the VW settlement money.

There was discussion about receiving and adding to the agenda. Andrew will get the agenda to us by the Weds the week before the meeting as he has to post to the city clerk by Friday before the meeting.

We had a Window Dressers update from yours truly. At the time of the meeting we had maybe around 60 inserts on order. As of the date of these minutes we have at least 260 on order, well on the way to our goal of 300. There have been articles in the SoPo Community Newsletter, an article in the Sentry which garnered many orders, and Sunday Sept 30 an article in the Sunday Telegram. We also give every one we measure a brochure to give to a relative, neighbor or friend.

We discussed briefly Lucy's recycling and food waste update. Below and hope to hear from her in October about the NEEP Conference and whether the school design committee will be updated on NEEP  
Here is a synopsis of the food waste and recycling update from Lucy:

We have spent some time sorting through a fair amount of contamination data from ecomaine and putting together a citywide recycling outreach and education program. To provide an overview of the issue and the program, I have attached a memo and related documents that will be sent to City Councilors today. We believe the initiatives in this program will have a significant impact in reducing contamination rates in South Portland. After you all discuss, we welcome any thoughts you may have.

Other items of note:

- Food Waste Program: 972 residents have signed up for the program. 1,400 pounds of food waste was collected during the month of July. Bins are still available for interested City residents.
- Recycling Pilot at Redbank: The summer intern finished his work last month. The Sustainability Office will be meeting with Redbank, Public Works, ecomaine, and a resident active in this issue in September to determine next steps.
- With Jessica's help, we are finishing an updated MCAP for 2016. A summary table of results is below. Once the report is finalized we will share with the committee.

Sector	Energy Costs (\$)			Energy Use (MMBTU)			Emissions (Metric Tons CO2e)		
	2014	2016	% Change	2014	2016	% Change	2014	2016	% Change
<b>Buildings:</b>									
<b>Heat &amp; Hot Water</b>	\$638,078	\$481,082	-24.6	44,689	47,207	5.6	2,451	2,569	4.8
<b>Buildings: Electricity</b>	\$607,830	\$798,968	31.4	19,473	18,354	-5.7	1,664	1,376	-17.3
<b>Total Buildings</b>	\$1,245,908	\$1,280,050	2.7	64,162	65,562	2.2	4,115	3,945	-4.1
<b>Wastewater</b>	\$364,955	\$381,489	4.5	11,913	10,760	-9.7	1,144	939	-17.9
<b>Vehicle Fleet</b>	\$535,706	\$348,678	-34.9	23,027	20,175	-12.4	1,665	1,452	-12.8
<b>Lights &amp; Traffic Signals</b>	\$350,718	\$362,562	3.4	4,011	3,599	-10.3	343	270	-21.3
<b>Transit Fleet</b>	\$150,640	\$105,078	-30.2	6,735	6,308	-6.4	498	466	-6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,647,927</b>	<b>\$2,477,858</b>	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>109,848</b>	<b>106,404</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>7,764</b>	<b>7,072</b>	<b>-8.9</b>

Andrew brought up that we should have an energy discussion around perennial plantings at the new school, That designers are probably working on the building design, but is anyone working on the landscape design? Promote perennial gardens not grass. Deciduous trees on south side= less heating and less cooling. Trees also sequester carbon into themselves as well as into the soil.

Should we in SoPo have a net canopy policy? Any tree that comes down is replaced by a comparable canopy? This sounds like a City Council question.

Apparently Pine Grove Cemetery (I believe in Falmouth) has a no net canopy loss policy.

Andrew also suggested perhaps a draft ERC website redesign, and we had a discussion about tabs with info on ERC ideas, buildings, transportation. Mostly informational but also listing standardized best practices.

Ellen brought up a new recycling outfit that apparently takes trash & recyclables in one dump load and separates the recyclables out fairly efficiently (see [fiberight.com](http://fiberight.com) and [fiberight.com/technology](http://fiberight.com/technology)). Ellen to report back more in October.

Question: How many homes are composting on their own? Do we have that metric, Lucy or Julie?

Adjourned at 7:55

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Respectively Submitted,

Taylor Strubell