

**City of Biddeford
Sustainability Commission**

April 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting Online](#)

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 953 2601 2979

Passcode: 645390

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 1.a Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2025 & April 7, 2025
2. New Business
 - 2.a Guest Speaker Art Cleaves of York County Emergency Management
3. Old Business
 - 3.a Updates as needed
4. Adjourn



Date: April 7

In Attendance: Brad, Will, Bev, Wendy, Joie, Jeff, Kiara, Max, Patrick

- Brad asks if people can nominate a secretary
- Kiara volunteered
 - Nominated Wendy
 - Seconded by Jeff
- Patrick will be new committee member
- Looking for 9th member

- Newsletter updates with Joie
 - Once a month
 - With events, info, and a picture of the council
- EV Ordinance:
 - Will try to schedule meeting with Marty about the EV Ordinance
- Pollinator Fest Updates:
- Tree Ordinance:
 - Bev & Brad met with David Gailbrith- city planner regarding this
 - Discourage unnecessary tree removal
 - Jake from Pierson's Nursery
 - Bev states we need a required tree canopy
 - Tree City USA- city declares that they want to
 - Jake says that many tree cities do not actually do anything
 - Suggests two ordinance
 - For new developments- have X amount of trees
 - For existing developments/ property- when should trees be cut
 - Don't want to pass empty preformative legislation
 - Max suggests we should have a tree minimum ordinance that would go to planning board
 - Establish legacy trees in Biddeford
 - Great in theory, extremely expensive in practice
 - Best idea is focusing on ordinance of private property
 - Max would like to take the lead on drafting an Ordinance for Biddeford
- Cleanup Updates:
- Upcoming Speakers: Code enforcement Roby Fecteau

- May 19th Stretch Codes and Emergency Management

- Max motions to adjourn
- Joie seconds
- Meeting adjourned

Mar 24th

Will make nice after lol

In Attendance: Brad, Will, Joie, Wendy, Jeff, Max, Kiara

Members of the public: Kathy, Ken, David Plavin, Patrick, 3 UNE students (Scott, Maddie, and someone else), John

Max approve minutes

Seconded by jeff

Approved minutes unanimously

Discussion around the EV ordinance and in lieu fee

- Move Max to approve EV draft ordinance
- Seconded by Joie
- Approved unanimously
- Brad and Will to meet with Mayor to bring ordinance forward

Earth Day Cleanup Update:

- April 26th 10:00- 1:00 pm
- Start: City Square Park Ending: Sacred Profane
 - BSOOB will park electric Bus from 10-1 with driver handing out maps
 - City Square Park:
 - Cleanup meeting point
 - Recycling Game
 - Free composting buckets
 - Sign up sheet for Garbage to Garden
 - We will have 25 small pales (\$8.50 each) for composting to give out, 1 large composter as well - Brad to check to see if DPW will give coupons for more bins

Beach Management Plan

- Planned 12,000 beach grasses in the nunnery beach
- Members on the coast/ Biddeford pool area want to amend climate action plan
- UNE students in attendance
- Beaches are dynamic and change all year
- Salt marshes are carbon sinks, erosion buffers
 - Sea Level Rise can change the marsh habitat and force marsh migration
- Nature based solutions can be cost effective
- Biddeford coastal communities are highlighted in the Biddeford vulnerability report
- Living shorelines to protect property and habitats
- SLP predicted to be 1.5 by 2050 but we need to prepare for 3 feet of flooding
- Going to marinate on this

Scott – fellow for the City for the summer from UNE

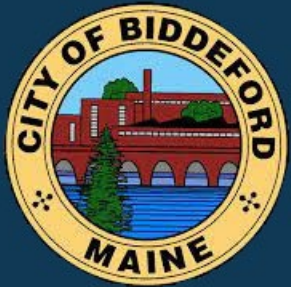
EJ4NE grant submitted to support Bike/Ped plan

Solar ordinance going to policy committee in April
Wendy trying to get a greenhouse for BCG
Max motions to adjourn
Jeff Seconded
Unanimous approval

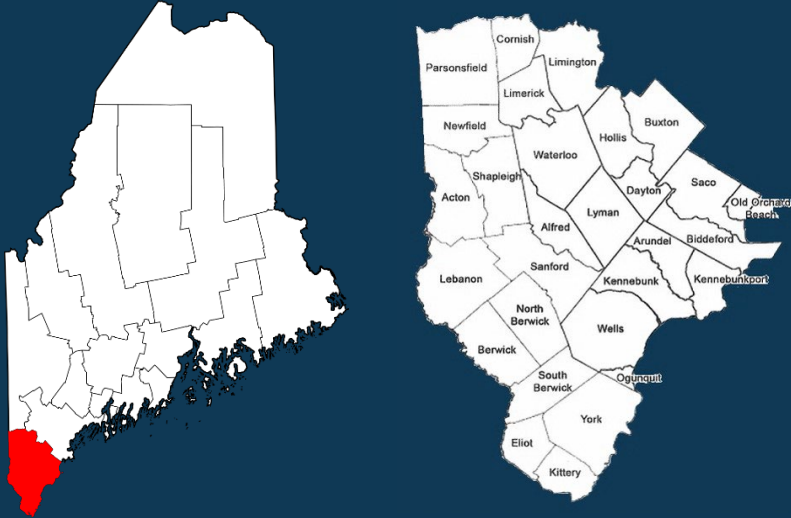
Next meeting: April 7

York County Coastal Sand Dune Restoration and Protection Initiative

April 28th, 2025



York County EMA



- Facilitate/coordinate with first responders, officials, and other stakeholders in York County's 29 municipalities
- Liaison between local, state, and federal agencies
- Focus on the four phases of emergency management



York County EMA Roles & Responsibilities



Work with 29 Local Emergency Management Directors; one for each town



Coordinate resources through the Emergency Operations Center



100+ Volunteers



Training & Exercise



Special Teams



Disaster Sheltering



Maintain relationships with local, state, and federal partners



Emergency Planning & Hazard Analysis

Why We Got Involved in Dunes & Beaches



- January 2024 storms virtually wiped out our protective dune and beach systems
- York County EMA needed to advocate to FEMA and the State of Maine that dunes and beaches were eligible under FEMA Public Assistance
- Coastal municipalities lacked the resources and staffing to undertake a comprehensive dune and beach restoration strategy
- York County could support local municipalities with the county-owned dredge as well as general procurement & project management

Damages to Dunes



Pictured: Ogunquit Beach



Pictured: Old Orchard Beach



Pictured: Saco





Pictured: Biddeford

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FEMA Standards for Dunes/Beaches

FEMA Standards	Description
Category B	These are emergency protective measures that will provide protection from a 5-year storm
Category G	These are long-term measures to design a beach to a specified elevation, width, and slope. We intend for this to provide protection from 100-year storms

Important Note: Both Category B and Category G measures require extensive engineering work. For Category G in particular, the engineering standards are to the same rigor as a building/seawall.

Cost Share for Category B & Category G

In the aftermath of a federally-declared disaster, here are the cost share percentages for Category B and Category G under FEMA Public Assistance:

FEMA Standards	Current Cost Share	Cost Share if Category G Beaches are Present
Category B	90% Federal/State 10% Local	Unchanged
Category G	100% Local	90% Federal/State 10% Local

Biddeford Grant Overview

Federal Grants	Amount	Status
FEMA – Flood Mitigation Assistance	\$544,415 for Category G dune and beach design	Applied for
Congressionally Delegated Spending	\$3.0M for Category G dune and beach design/construction	Applied for

State Grants	Amount	Status
GOPIF - Community Action Grant	\$75,000 application for Category G Dune Design	Applied for

Maintaining Category G Beaches in the Future

Category G

Beaches

- Beach was constructed by placement of sand to a designed elevation/width/slope/sand grain size
- There is a maintenance program which includes periodic renourishment of sand (need to have records of this)
- Beach can't be covered under USACE/other Federal agency replenishment program)

- Municipalities will have to maintain this regularly (once a year or so) to remain compliant
- This will require consistent monitoring, measurement, and replenishment of sand anywhere from once a year to once every few years
- If a storm happens and proper records are not maintained, communities “lose” their investment

Value of Future Protection



- Dunes & beaches serve as a buffer for the wave energy and surge coming in from coastal storms
- Dunes & beaches protect homes, businesses and millions of dollars of infrastructure
- Our dunes & beaches support our tourism industry – contributing more than 27,000 local jobs and \$1.6B in annual tourism spending
- On average \$1 spent on mitigation leads to \$6 saved in future disaster expenses
- These efforts incorporate nature-based solutions (sand) that provide wildlife and habitat protection benefits

Appendix

FEMA Reimbursement Categories for Dunes & Beaches

There are two categories of FEMA Public Assistance that apply to beaches & dunes. To accomplish a project under either of these categories, you will need some kind of engineering help.

1

Category B – Emergency Protective Measures

Covers emergency stabilizations (i.e., partial replacement of beach sand) necessary to protect improved property

2

Category G – Recreational or Other

Generally, this means full replacement of sand on the beach or dune to get it back to where it was before

Key Point: This category is usually used for facilities like gyms or buildings – and any building requires an engineer to build it and a plan to maintain it. This same concept is applied to dunes/beaches in that they must be engineered and maintained

FEMA Public Assistance – Category B

Summary:

Category B

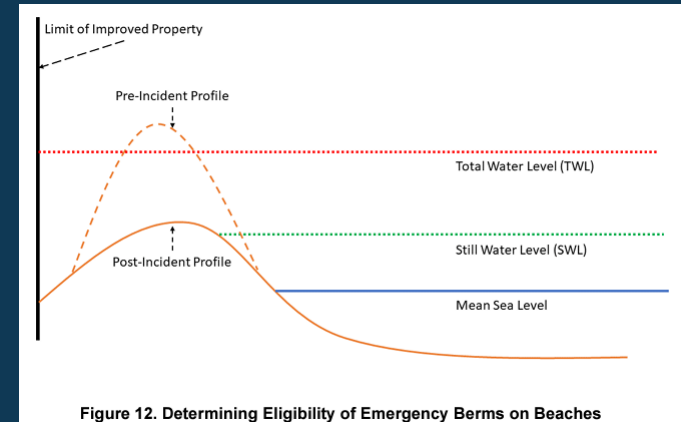
For Dunes & Beaches

Emergency Protective Measures

- If a natural or engineered beach has eroded to a point where a 5-year flood could damage improved property, cost-effective emergency protective measures on the beach that protect against damage from that flood are eligible.

Details:

1. To demonstrate that a 5-year storm could damage improved property, the Applicant must show that the combined stillwater level and wave runup elevation for a 5-year storm, as determined by computer modeling, exceeds the post-incident elevation of the primary dune.
2. The 5-year Total Water Level (TWL), which includes the average water surface elevation from a 5-year storm surge plus wave setup and astronomical tide, must be higher than the post-incident profile for the location to be eligible for an emergency berm placement. See Figure 12 here.



FEMA Public Assistance – Category G

Category G

Dunes

- The dune was constructed prior to the event (will need documentation for general dimensions and cubic yards of sand used) or;
- The dune is an Improved Natural Feature

Category G

Beaches

- Beach was constructed by placement of sand to a designed elevation/width/slope/sand grain size
- There is a maintenance program which includes periodic renourishment of sand (need to have records of this)
- Beach can't be covered under USACE/other Federal agency replenishment program)

- For both dunes and beaches, the amount of sand eligible for replacement is limited to the amount lost due to the incident. For beaches specifically, the Applicant needs to substantiate the amount of sand claimed with pre-and post-incident profiles that extend at least to the seaward edge of the subaqueous nearshore zone (Depth of Closure. See Figure 16. Typical Beach Profile below
- Clear documentation is key to all of this, which includes items such as design studies, plans, construction documents, maintenance records, etc.

