



**City of Biddeford
Sustainability Commission**

January 26, 2026 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: 991 3228 2526

Passcode: 403651

1. Declaration of Quorum
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 2.a Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 5, 2026
3. New Business
 - 3.a Election of Officers
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice Chair
 - c. Secretary
 - 3.b Work Plan 2026
4. Discussion (Time Permitting)
 - 4.a UNE Class Project with Jennifer Brousseau
 - i. Tree Inventory & Ordinance
 - ii. Urban Heat Island Mapping
 - 4.b Earth Day Event—begin discussion
 - 4.c Planning Board Workshop for Landscape Ordinance February 4, 2026
5. Adjourn

City of Biddeford

Sustainability Commission

1/6/2025, 5:30pm

Present: Brad Favreau, Jeff Goldsmith, Will Kochtitsky, Max Zakian, Mikaela Greenwald, Patrick Conlon

Absent: Joie Grandbois, Brad Crickard, Bev Thorpe

Guests from the community: Holly, John, Cathy,

We have a quorum.

1. The minutes for 12/1/25 meeting of the Sustainability Commission (SC) were unanimously approved. Patrick made the motion and Mikaela seconded.
2. Officers are elected annually. We deferred the selection of candidates and vote until the next meeting 1/26/26 to give more Commissioners a chance to be selected and to vote on the ballot. The next meeting is scheduled a week later because 1/19 is a national holiday.
3. The SC voted to Adopt a Park the last Commission meeting in December. Jeff is on the calendar to monitor the Park this week. We reviewed the duties expected in the winter season. A community guest Holly commented that her organization felt that volunteers for city parks should be recognized publicly to honor their efforts and encourage more residents to volunteer in the future. She and John brought 3 posters to display, to recognize the volunteers.
4. There was some discussion about the SC presentation/participation at the Planning Department's workshop in early December. The EV Charging Ordinance was approved with some reservations. The fee for "in lieu" decisions was put to a minimal amount because the Planning Department would not approve the larger amounts that were in the Ordinance. The revised EV Ordinance was sent to the Policy Committee of the City.
5. The revisions to the Landscaping Ordinance were discussed. Brad will address Max's questions. There was a discussion about landscaping and how new trees and bushes can obstruct vehicles' views of traffic as they pull out of a side street on to another street. Patrick made a motion to add: "no Screening and/or Buffering shall be installed in places that would obscure the sightlines necessary for safe traffic circulation." This was seconded by Mikaela and unanimously approved.
6. There was a discussion of the 2026 Strategic Plan for the Sustainability Commission. Brad reviewed the actions taken in 2025. There was a long discussion about which topics should be included in the SC Strategic Plan: including Tree

Ordinance, Shade Ordinance. No Mow Lawns, Beach Grass Planting as a Nature-based Solution to beach erosion, Solar Energy and City Property, Food Waste reduction using Composting and programs like Garbage to Garden, Increasing Bicycle Access and Increasing Bicycle Racks at City Properties, Promoting Biddeford School Curricula items related to Climate Change, bicycle use and management of food waste.

7. Jeff Goldsmith made a motion to adjourn the SC meeting, seconded by Mikaela. It was approve unanimously at 7pm.

Sustainability Commission
Work Plan 2025/2026

Buildings and Energy

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status
Energy Audit of Municipal Buildings	Information to increase energy efficiency for city buildings	9 to 12 months	Planning & Development Dept	Pending CRP Grant Award
Adoption of Stretch Codes	Stricter energy efficiency code requirements	1 year	Commission/Code Enforcement	No Action
Solar on Andrews Road	Renewable energy production in Biddeford	1 – 2 years	Commission/Planning/Solar Developer	No Action
Solar Ordinance	Council Adoption of Ordinance	1 – 2 years	Commission/Planning	Policy Committee 1/26/2026

Transportation and Infrastructure

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status
Bike/Ped Plan	Council Adoption of Plan	18 months	Commission/Planning/Consultant	Planning Partnership Initiative/ME DOT Jan 2026
EV Charging Ordinance	Council Adoption of Ordinance	1 year	Commission/Planning	Approved by Planning Board
Transit Oriented Development	Council Adoption of Policy	1- 2 years	Commission/Planning	No Action

Land Use and Natural Resources

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status
Beach Management Plan	Council Adoption of Plan	1 – 2 years	Commission/Planning	No Action/ Awaiting YCEMA
Landscape Ordinance	Council Adoption of Ordinance	9 to 12 months	Commission/Planning	To Planning Board for Workshop 1/21/2026
Local Food Production	Increased food production	Ongoing	Commission/BCG	No Action

Health and Wellbeing

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status
Shade Structure Ordinance	Council Adoption of Ordinance	1 year	Commission/Planning	No Action
Tree Ordinance	Council Adoption of Ordinance	1 year	Commission/Planning	Combine w/ Tree Inventory Project/UNE

Leadership and Support

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status
Climate Action in School Curricula	Relationship between Commission and School	1 year	Commission/School Faculty/Admin	CSC re-application? w/GMRI
Engagement of Community and City Staff	Ongoing conversation with community and city staff	Ongoing	Commission	Council Meeting Nov 18, 2025

Other

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status
GHG Emission Inventory	Update of inventory	Summer 2025	Commission/Planning/UNE	Complete

For Consideration

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status
Tree Ordinance				
Shade Structure Ordinance				
No Lawns! Campaign				
Coastal Project Dune Grass?				
Community Solar Campaign?				
Food Waste Management/ Composting Campaign				
Rooftop Solar – Municipal Buildings				
Additional Bike Racks at all City Green Spaces				