



**City of Biddeford
Sustainability Commission**

February 2, 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: 982 5372 7705

Passcode: 925984

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/Review
 - 4.a Beach Restoration/Management-Will
 - 4.b Planning Board Workshop for Landscape Ordinance Feb 4, 2026
 - 4.c UNE Class Project with Jennifer Brousseau
 - i. Tree Inventory and Ordinance
 - ii. Urban Heat Island Mapping
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 | CRP Grant Awarded Jan 23, 2026 |
| 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 2/23/2026 |

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 |
|--|---------|----------|-------------------|--------|
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| 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 | | | | |
| | | | | |

An aerial photograph of a beach. The left side shows a dark, vegetated dune area. The middle is a wide, light-colored sandy beach with some tracks and patterns. The right side shows the ocean with gentle waves washing onto the shore.

Biddeford beach management questions

Rough plan outline

- What public access points does the city own onto beaches across the city?
 - What vulnerabilities do we have at these access points and how do we prepare and plan for future storms?
- Boucher Park Beach management plan (next slide)
- How do we help coastal property owners? What resources/options are available to coastal property owners?
 - What are the responsibilities of property owners and the city after storm events?
 - What are the best methods for restoration post-storm?
 - Can we help coastal property owners coordinate for post-storm recovery?
 - Others topics?

We want to specifically develop a plan for Boucher Park to understand the following:

- How does our community use the beach? (i.e. recreation and ecosystem)
- What does the path onto the beach look like? How does it change seasonally? Accessibility?
- Is there better access at a different place on the beach than what is there now?
- What does a restored dune look like? What strategies do we employ? Planting, scraping, other?
- What are the characteristics of the sand? What is the cost/process for bringing in sand from an inland quarry?
- What does it cost? How do we fund it? Additional non-resident parking fee?
- What does ongoing maintenance look like? What happens during/after a storm event? How do we respond?
- Others topics?