



City of Biddeford Sustainability Commission

January 6, 2025 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Zoom

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Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 924 0273 7841

Passcode: 397008

1. Declaration of Quorum/Voting Members
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 2.a Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 16, 2024
3. Old Business
 - 3.a Carbon Fee & Dividend Resolution
 - 3.b Grant Opportunities
 - 3.c Work Plan for 2025
 - i. Buildings & Energy
 - ii. Transportation
 - iii. Land Use
 - iv. Health & Well Being
 - v. Mayor's Suggested Actions
 1. Energy Audit of municipal buildings
 2. Solar development on Andrews Road
 3. Promote Casella's climate actions
 4. Beach management plan
 5. Stretch Codes
 6. Ordinance-require EV charging ports in new construction
 7. Bike/pedestrian plan
4. New Business
 - 4.a Collaboration with UNE-Projects for environmental studies students
 - i. Coastal Resilience
 - ii. Biddeford Tree Planting
 - iii. Community Garden

5. Discussion/Review
6. Adjourn

City of Biddeford

Sustainability Commission

12/16/2024, 5:30 pm

Present: Beverly Thorpe William Kochtitzky Brad Favreau, Joie Grandbois, Jeff Goldsmith, Kiara Frischkorn (not yet sworn in), Max Zakian, Ken and Kathy (members of the public)

1. Quorum (5) is present
2. Brad shares that he added minutes to the agenda this morning
3. Will adds EPA proposal update to agenda
4. Carbon Fee and Dividend

Will made a draft resolution based off what Peter Dugas, presenter at last meeting from Citizen's Climate Lobby, supplied, adding in a few statements. Brad shares that Peter Dugas will present to the council when the resolution is presented. Members discuss how it is best to have Sustainability Commission meeting contribute during the City Council meeting. Brad still needs to talk to the mayor about when this will be presented, and if it will be across one or two meetings.

Members moved on to the wording of the resolution. Sam suggests a possible change to the preambles to condense them, but Joie says that it may be better to have ordinance wording consistent across towns. Max, Jeff, and Bev are satisfied with current wording. Brad points out that "as far upstream as possible" isn't very clear, and suggests more clear wording. Other members agree. Sam suggests adding in a preamble that references Biddeford's existing Climate Action Plan and the Maine Climate Council's Maine Won't Wait plan, and all members work on the wording. Brad notes that members should be prepared for council challenges to wording on the specific effects of the policy, members consider deleting that clause, but Joie states it's important to stress the "cash back" aspect, so members keep the clause. Ken and Brad clarified that Citizen's Climate Lobby, not the city, will convey the passage of the resolution to state and national officials.

Brad explains the process for getting it on the council agenda.

Jeff motions to send the resolution to the city manager, Bev seconds, passes unanimously

5. Minutes

Max motions to approve minutes, Joie seconds, passes unanimously

6. Climate Smart Communities Initiative Grant Opportunity

Biddeford can apply to a few hundred thousand dollars. The deadline is in March. A work plan is necessary to apply. The committee, or the committee in conjunction with the city, can write it.

7. EPA grant update

Will shares that UNE and partners didn't receive the Community Change Grant. They will sign up for a feedback session to learn why. Members share that the text from the grant can likely be re-cycled for future grants. Jeff suggests that it's important to look at grants that succeeded. Jeff shares a graph from Project Drawdown that shows different impacts of household action on climate change.

8. Work Plan

Will has drafted a work plan. Kiara, Joie, and Will discuss the structure. Kiara suggests having five subject areas like in the CAP, while Will shares that he made nine priorities in the draft so that everyone can work on two. Members agree to have five priority areas. Kiara drafted a version matching with this, including outcomes and recommendations.

Bev is concerned about increasing development and lack of conservation, and expresses interest in being on land use group.

Will suggests members split into topics now, and come back with work plan drafts next meeting.

A member feels under-qualified on development ordinances, so Will suggests bringing in experts.

Max notes that he has experience in land use, and would like to be on that group.

Jeff brings up Beach Management Plan, and how that fits into the work plan, if at all. A coalition, including Roby, has already been working on one. Joie and Brad and Will note it's important to contribute to initiatives that other groups and committees are doing. Will suggests having Roby present about his work and how the Sustainability Commission can contribute. Jeff expresses interest in working on the Beach Management Plan.

Max suggests one person takes a topic and decides on the major priorities, and brings it back to the meeting.

Sam on transportation and infrastructure

Max and Jeff on land use and natural resources

Joie on buildings and energy

Kiara on health, safety, and well-being

Brad on leadership and support

Each section should include

priorities (already in executive summary of CAP)

timeline

people and entities to work with (within and outside of Biddeford)

outcomes (look at Will's draft for example)

specific policy recommendation

existing actions and initiatives

Reach out to Brad to learn about which committees are already working on actions.

Members stress that this is a draft or a framework, not binding.

Will suggests city staff come present on what the Commission can help with monthly.

Members should send summaries of actions to Brad before January 2nd.

Next meeting is January 6th.

9. Status of public engagement subcommittee

Brad sent information to Joie about Mailchimp. Kiara and Joie will discuss their plan soon. Kiara plans to update Instagram, which Brad says will need to go through Danica.

One task in the new year will be to draft the first newsletter.

10. Public comment

11. Adjourn

Jeff motions, Will seconds, passes unanimously

	<u>Name of Grant</u>	<u>Awarding Organization</u>	<u>Focus of Grant</u>	<u>Amount of Award</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Application Deadli</u>	<u>Award Date</u>	<u>Possible Projects</u>
1)	Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program	Forest Service	The purpose of the program is to establish community forests by protecting forestland from conversion to non-forest uses and provide community benefits including public recreation, environmental and economic benefits, and forest-based educational programs. Public access is required for all projects.		Yes	Jan. 13, 2025		https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/356124
2)	Heat Resilient Communities – Cohort	Center for Heat Resilient Communities	This first-of-its-kind opportunity brings together teams of experts and over 50 cross-sector partners to create a roadmap for equitable community heat resilience across six core areas of preparation and response.	\$10,000				https://www.heat.gov/pages/center-for-heat-resilient-communities
3)	Climate Smart Communities Initiative	Climate Smart Communities Initiative	Create or advance a climate resilience plan or project in collaboration with a community that is on the front lines of the climate crisis.	\$100,000		Mar. 3, 2025		Funding Opportunities – Climate Smart Communities Initiative
4)	Partners for Places		The Partners for Places matching grant program supports equitable sustainability projects and helps build partnerships between local government leaders, frontline community groups and place-based funders in the U.S. and Canada.	\$100,000	Yes – 50%			Partners for Places: Informational Webinar for Prospective Grantees
5)	Environmental Justice for New England	EPA Thriving Communities	Goal of TCGM Program: support community-based organizations, EJ organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other entities representing underserved, urban, rural, Indigenous, remote, and capacity constrained communities in implementing projects to address local environmental and/or public health challenges					The Environmental Justice New England grants program

Whitten, Nan

From: Jennifer Brousseau <jbrousseau2@une.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 10:34 AM
To: Favreau, Brad
Subject: Following up about Climate Action Projects for UNE Climate Adaptation Class

Hello Brad,

I hope you are doing well and had a nice Thanksgiving! Apologies for my delay in getting back to you since our meeting about how UNE students might be able to support Biddeford's Climate Action Work. I also spoke with Will Kochtitzky recently to see if he had any ideas for student projects with his involvement on your Sustainability Commission. Here are the main projects that we talked about and then an additional area with the urban tree planting that Will thought students could help:

- **Support Biddeford's Coastal Beach Management Plan:** review existing resources and outreach material from similar places in New England to develop coastal resilience webpages for residents in Biddeford. Help design and implement a summit in the spring to brainstorm content and ideas for Biddeford's Beach Management Plan. - Will thought this could even be something approach at a regional level?
- **Support Biddeford's Urban Tree Planting:** Will mentioned that this might be an opportunity for students to work on a project to research or conduct a feasibility study about where trees would be best planted in downtown Biddeford, what types of trees would be best to plant, and what the care of those trees would involve to make progress towards the Climate Action goals. It would be great to know if you think that this is a priority for you all and something students could focus on!
- **Feasibility study for another community garden – working together with Holly Culloton at Biddeford Community Gardens-** I have not been able to get in touch with Holly, so I am not sure if this project would be feasible for the spring, but I'd welcome any suggestions you have to speak with someone about this.

I'd love to have a couple group projects that are supporting the city's climate work. I am hoping to also have a couple of projects from the town of Kennebunkport, the Wells Reserve, and a couple other partners that students will be working on, so I would envision having the partners on these projects visit with our class early on in the semester to share more with students about your climate action work so far and goals of the group project. I'm happy to chat more about this in the coming weeks, and I'd love to hear your thoughts on the feasibility of students' supporting your work on these projects or if you have had other ideas since we last met!

Thanks,
Jenn Brousseau

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Pronouns: She/her/hers

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