

Sustainability Commission
December 2, 2024 5:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

- Present
 - Brad Favreau
 - Kiara (sworn in on 17th)
 - Wendy Goldsmith
 - John Wallach
 - Will Kochtitzky
 - Ken
 - Kathy
 - Richard
 - Sam
 - Joie
 - Max
 - Bev
 - Patrick
 - John
 - Member of CCL from Scarborough
- Swearing in
- 1. Peter Dugas presents on Biddeford City Council resolution on carbon fee & dividend (F & D)
 - He's an En-ROADS climate ambassador
 - ME coordinator & NE regional director for CCL
 - backgrounds
 - US emits a Mt St Helen's eruption worth of matter into the atmosphere every 16 mins
 - Advocating for a formal downward pressure on Carbon emissions
 - Larger support
 - Collins and King are both on bipartisan senate climate solutions caucus
 - F&D
 - Proposed bill currently in congress
 - 30 ME towns endorse F & D
 - Champion--Sheldon Whitehouse from RH
 - One vote shy of being in Inflation Reduction Act
 - facts
 - F&D is revenue neutral
 - potential ways to put downward pressure on carbon emissions
 - US almost had cap & trade in 1991
 - When revenue just goes to government, can function as regressive tax
 - What CCL advocates for: only tax source of FF (extractions & processing), and evenly split checks that all go back to population
 - Essentially a progressive tax
 - Would be financially benefiting 50-70% of households in ME

- Changes narrative—who the burden is on to take climate action
 - EU is going to start taxing imports from country with lower/no fees on carbon next year
 - ME is responsible for .27% of US carbon emissions
- Actions
 - “Carbon Cash Back for ME” is what F & D is branded as here
 - Given that congress will re-consider 2017 tax cuts & president can do tariffs, we can maybe get F & D through in 2025
 - Will look through model ordinance in next 2 meetings, consider whether to bring to council
 - Discussing possible sources of opposition from city council and how to overcome
 - Belief this is only a federal issue
- 2. Meeting Monday twice per month
 - If members can’t go to a meeting then tell Brad--if u have 3 unexcused absences then they're removed, just telling Brad becomes an excusal. People can also call in via Zoom
 - 1st & 3rd Mon
 - 5:30 pm
- 2. Election of officers
 - Chair makes agenda and runs mtg--Will
 - Vice chair fills in for chair--Max
 - Secretary takes minutes--Sam
- 2. We use Roberts’s rules of order
- 5. Work plan for 2025
 - Want to get this kicked off right away
 - Will create a subcommittee for this--Max motioned, Joi seconded, unanimous passage
 - Will, Max, and Kiara are interested
- 5a. Subcommittees
 - Public engagements & outreach
 - Newsletter
 - Social media—would have to be coordinated with Danica (city staff)
 - Kiara and Joie are on this
 - Will motioned to create, Max seconded, unanimous support
 - Subcommittees would have no more than 2 members, because 3 members constitutes a public mtg
 - Everyone is in favor of having subcommittees of some form
 - Policy subcommittee
 - Draft ordinance with staff support, then gets brought to sustainability committee as a whole
 - The point is to get work done when we’re not meeting
 - Or, temporary ones to work on specific committees

- or, based off of the different sectors of the CAP
 - best to wait and see what our needs are
 - We will discuss this more in future meetings
- We can't have substantive emails or debates among all nine, but we can have non-substantive announcements to all
- 4. Community Resilience Partnership (which is part of Governors Office of Policy Innovation and the Future)
 - Brad is preparing a grant for pre-storm survey
- EPA grant is going to be a while before results are in
- Committee will get a UNE fellow to do a GHG inventory this summer
 - Max did a GHG inventory for Falmouth when he was in Americorp, offered to help
 - Brad passed out summary of CAP, asked that members review it.