

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