



**City of Biddeford
Sustainability Commission**

April 6, 2026 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Teams

[Join Teams Online](#)

1. Declaration of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - 2.a Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 16, 2026
3. New Business
 - 3.a Public Market—Sam and Kate talk about summer market plans
 - 3.b Erosion Control-Will
4. Updates
 - 4.a Earth Day
 - a. Education Campaigns
 - i. No Lawns!-Bev
 - ii. Composting-Mikaela
 - iii. Active Transportation-Patrick
 - b. Tree Planing behind City Hall
Bev to present recommendation of species
 - c. Downtown Clean-up
 - 4.b Work Plan
5. Adjourn

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION 03/16/26

PRESENT: Brad Favreau, jeff Goldsmith, Bev Thorpe, Nadia Crockett, Brad Crickard, Joie Grandbois, Mikaela Greenwood, Patrick Conlon

Absent: Will Kochtitsky, Max Zakian, Emily McCauley

Guests: Kathy, Richard

1. Quorum is present.
2. Minutes from 3/2/26: motion from Patrick, seconded by Mikaela.

Approved unanimously.

3. Jeff Goldsmith gave an update about planting the beach grass by the Biddeford Pool Conservation Trust last week. 20,000 stalks of beach grass were planted by volunteers in their section of the BP-FR beach near South Point.
4. Updates on the Ordinances
 - a. The Solar Ordinance was presented to the Policy Committee. It will be presented again next week.
 - b. The EV Charging Ordinance needed a correction before the committee would review it.
 - c. The Landscape Ordinance will be presented soon to the Policy Committee. Richard from the Conservation Board commented on an issue about getting an environmental assessment and who should hire the person –with the developer paying for the assessment. He explained the conflict of interest that arises if the Developer hires the assessor.
5. Energy Audit Grant
 - a. The Sustainability Commission might have to establish a grant review committee to assess and recommend to the Commission which application to support. Then the Commission can discuss the finalists and vote to approve an application. Brad C and Patrick volunteered to join Brad F and Will to assess the applications.
6. Sam and Caty are invited to present a project to the Commission about a Biddeford Public Market.

7. New Business

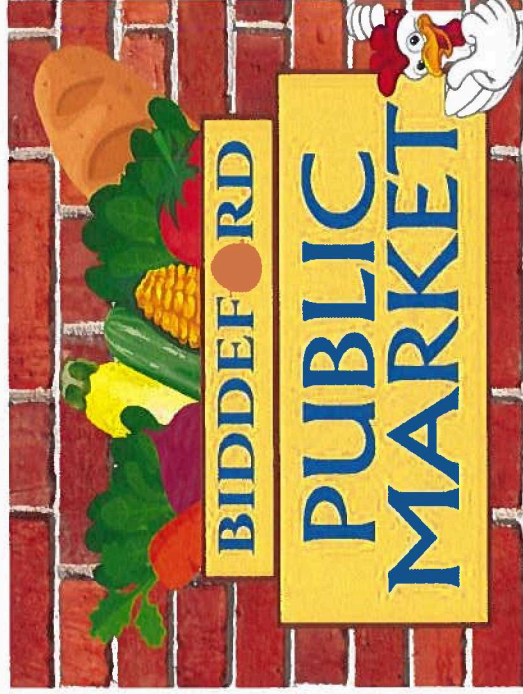
- a. Will, Brad F, and Pat Boston discussed a beach management plan. The June 9th City Council meeting will hear a plan and discuss for about 15 minutes. The Sustainability Commission needs to learn about the regional plans and has invited the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission to discuss a beach management plan –
 - i. A beach management plan in general
 - ii. How a beach management plan can benefit Biddeford
 - iii. What geographical area would this manage
 - iv. What is the municipal responsibility and what is the private owner responsibility on Biddeford's beaches.
- b. Collaboration with other local agencies that promote beach management locally was discussed too.

8. There was a lengthy discussion about Earth Day events this spring.

- a. Clean up downtown and in Biddeford's parks
- b. Planting native plants in some of the parks, perhaps sharing the costs with the parks that have some budget to cover this action.
- c. Creating some educational material and setting up "tables" in the parks or downtown to dispense the educational products.
- d. Promoting more composting in Biddeford
- e. Active Transportation--Enhancing biking and walking in the Biddeford/Saco area
- f. Promoting No Mow Lawns, perhaps highlighting areas that could model what this would look like
- g. Bev Thorpe made a motion to do 3 projects for Earth Day
 - i. Public Education about 3 topics
 - ii. Coordinating tree planting with the Biddeford Community Gardens
 - iii. Coordinate cleaning up Downtown and set up tables to distribute educational material.

- h. Patrik Conlon seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.
- 9. Nadia Crockett made a motion to adjourn the Commission meeting at 7:02 EDT. Patrick seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

Biddeford Public Market



Advancing Sustainability Through Local Food, Community and Climate Action

Who We Are

- Seasonal farmers & makers market
- Local farms, food producers, and artisans
- Hosted alongside existing community events
- Accessible, welcoming public gathering
- Our purpose: strengthen the local food system and build community



Farmer's Market, Music & Wellness Fun @ the park!

The Works on Wellness Council will be providing MaineHealth Employees with Bumper Crop vouchers to spend at the Market on free produce! **stop by the WOW table at the event (under the red EZ Up tent)**
Bring a blanket/chair and settle in for an evening of fun and entertainment!

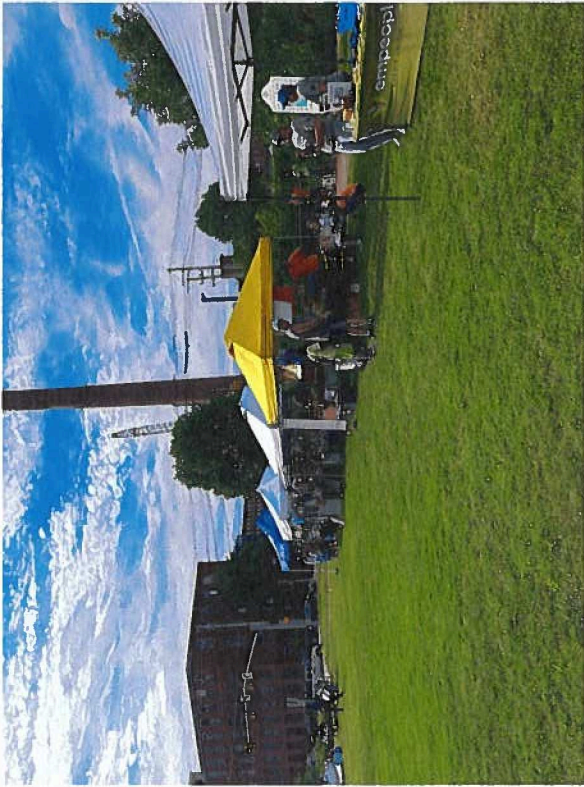
Wednesday, July 30, 2025

- Biddeford Public Market 4-7:30pm
- Food Truck 5-7:30 pm
- Live Music: 6-7:30pm

Biddeford Mechanics Park
Corner of Main & Water St.

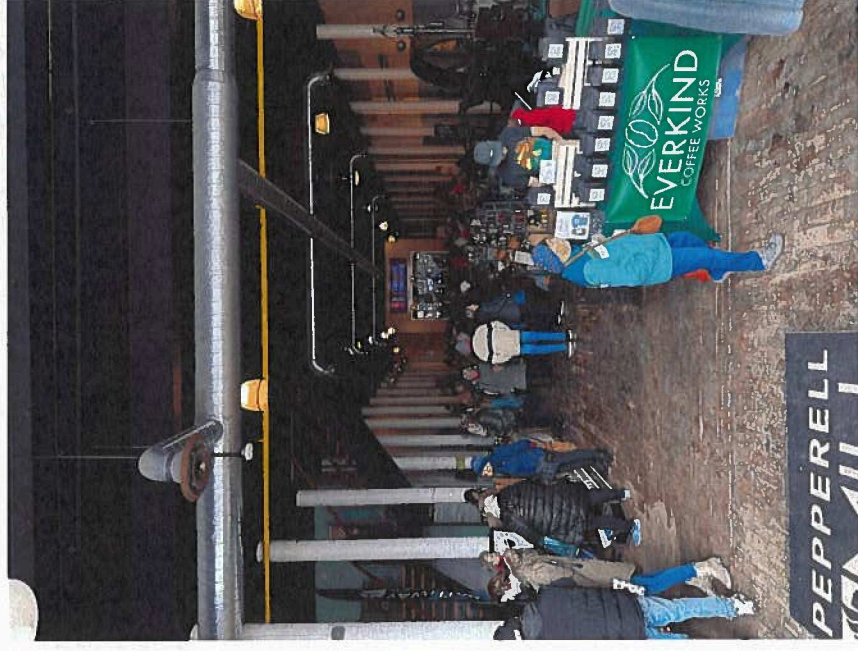
Commission Mission Alignment

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Support sustainable development
- Engage residents in climate solutions
- Promote equity in sustainability initiatives
- Our market directly advances each priority



Local Food = Climate Action

- Shorter food miles
- Reduced transportation emissions
- Support Regenerative and small-scale farms
- Seasonal, lower-impact eating habits
- Result: resilient, lower-carbon food systems



Community Engagement in Action

- Brings residents downtown weekly
- Connects people directly with farmers
- Build habits around local purchasing
- Makes sustainability visible and social



Equity & Food Access

- Fresh food in public, walkable space
- Opportunities for SNAP/EBT and senior food programs
- Supports small and beginning farmers
- Healthy food should be accessible to all residents
- Partnerships with local hunger programs offering other forms of food.



Strengthening Downtown & Community Life

- Activates parks and public spaces
- Increases foot traffic for nearby businesses
- Encourages car-free gathering
- Builds pride and place-based identity
- Environmental sustainability + economic vitality go hand in hand



Make Local Food Available To All Through Bumper Crop Purchasing

- Bumper Crop program is run by the Maine Federation of Farmers Markets
- Bumper Crops come in \$5 vouchers and can be used at any participating farmers market
- Provide affordable produce and local foods to residents
- Stabilizes farmer income
- Can enhance community collaboration



Measurable Impact

- 20+ local farms, food producers and artisans supported
- Dollars kept in the local economy
- Food access participation
- Community collaboration



Why Commission Support Matters

- Expand vendor capacity
- Increase food access programing
- Support market operations
- Purchase bumper crops



Community Collaboration



**Bon Appetit
Community
Meal Program**



The Ask

- Financial support for market operations
- Funding to purchase bumper crops to distribute to the community
- Collaboration on sustainability initiatives
- Investment supports lower emissions, less waste, stronger farms, and greater food access.

Thank You!

- Biddeford Public Market is already delivering measurable sustainability outcomes
- With your partnership, we can expand that impact for the entire community



Sustainability Commission Work Plan 2026

Buildings and Energy

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status	Funding
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	Funding
Bike/Ped Plan	Council Adoption of Plan	18 months	Commission/Planning/Consultant	No Action	
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	Funding
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	Funding
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	Funding
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	Funding
GHG Emission Inventory	Update of inventory	Summer 2025	Commission/Planning/UNE	Complete	

For Consideration

Action	Outcome	Timeline	Responsible Party	Status	Funding
Tree Ordinance	Council adoption of Ordinance		Max		
Shade Structure Ordinance	Council adoption of Ordinance		Brad F.		
No Lawns! Campaign	Creation and Distribution of media to owner-occupied Households		Bev		
Beach Plan - Coastal Project Dune Grass?	Draft Beach Management Plan		Wil/Jeff		
Community Solar Campaign?	Creation and Distribution of media to owner-occupied Households		Brad C.		
Food Waste Management/ Composting Campaign	Creation and Distribution of media to all Households		Michaela		
Additional Bike Racks at all City Green Spaces	Min. one bike rack at each City green space		Patrick		

Adopt-a-Park	Adoption of 315 Main, Water St., Canopy, Pierson's Lane, Wash St, Mechanics		Bev		