

February 24, 2025

Present: Joie, Jeff, Will, Brad

Public: Drew, Richard, Kathy, Ken, Kayla

Excused Absence: Wendy, Bev, John

Brad spoke with David Galbraith, he will attend the March 3 meeting and explain transit-oriented development and discuss with us how we can support the city. Also discuss affordable housing

Solar ordinance was approved by the planning board with a recommendation to City Council. First it will go to Policy and then to council for their review. By May first we could be done with multiple readings and it could be passed, approximate timeline

Bike/ped plan – Brad spoke with SMPDC, they are writing a proposal for ~\$150k (max is \$200k) with environmental justice for New England, that would be used to create the plan. Would include lots of public engagement. Scope of work will be determined after public engagement event, so we know it is meeting needs. Award date is in May, due date is March 7 – 99% complete now. Traffic committee is working on this now too – we need to keep them updated as we move forward with that. Drew attending, he is part of the traffic committee, he is wondering who should work on the bike/ped plan. Drew is interested in assisting with the committee's work on the bike/ped plan. This plan will include a minimum concept design for at least the downtown, hopefully a little further out as well. We want to collaborate with the traffic committee on this too, we will stay in communication with them.

Public engagement opportunities. We are already set for the Pollinator Festival (about first weekend in May), Joie reached out about the art walk they will have a sign up soon. Earth Day is coming up, Brad wants us to think about a high profile event we could sponsor – get the commission on the map in front of the community. Jeff is planning an Earth Day (April 22) event in the evening; Biddeford Coastal Preservation Committee is having a zoom meeting to listen to Elizabeth Ayala Johnson's talk and then discussion. Then the next Saturday is a beach clean-up event, then there will be an art competition too at the community center.

We could also have a city hall event and/or library – have something for the community on Earth Day. Perhaps an event on April 26 for the community – we will discuss more at our next meeting. Maybe The City of Biddeford can work with Apex for a bike tune up event, a hands-on activity.

The Biddeford Pool Conservation Trust (formerly the Biddeford Pool Land Trust) is planting beach grass on the big beach in Biddeford Pool. The grass is to be delivered now on Tuesday, March 4. The weather will determine when the planting occurs in March. The grass is dormant and is healthy for a few weeks this time of year. You can sign up to be on a list to get notifications here..." You can sign up to be on a list to get notifications here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FxA8U7GXlr8mKq_Q7yN2qUCkRApwX57xjaJ7QRFGDZA/edit?usp=sharing

Update from Biddeford/Saco Climate Action team – they are working to highlight the Biddeford/Kennebunkport vernal pool complex – want to draw attention to it and highlight the value to the community. Long term – less housing that is chopping down those trees, more conservation – higher density

Conversation about table 6.1 and accessibility, do we reduce the minimum from 5 to 1 for accessibility spaces as a total percentage of EV spaces? We need to do more research on this

Conversation about charge stations need to provide the plug for your car, including the cord

Conversation about table 5.1 and what percentage we need to provide – how should we set the percentage for each land use type?

Brad and Will to coordinate and pass around revised ordinance

Should we create a more compelling graphic for the monarch pledge?

March meeting will be moved to March 24 instead of the 17th

Biddeford Community Garden – spring Pollinator Festival on May 31st – community fundraiser, they want our help in advertising – theme is metamorphosis and migration this year