

DRAFT by Jeff Goldsmith

Sustainability Commission of Biddeford Minutes

7/21/25

Brad Favreau, Jeff Goldsmith, Joie Grandbois, Patrick Conlon

Visitors x 2

There is no quorum so this meeting is a discussion without a vote.

1. We discussed losing the project to design nature-based solutions for the beach at Boucher Park in Biddeford Pool.
2. Ester Brown was going to come to the Commission and discuss a project referred to as Fix-it Fair but cancelled at the last minute.
3. Those in attendance agreed not to discuss the Landscaping Ordinance draft because its author wasn't present.
4. The Heart of Biddeford requested that the Commission support a service to recycle food waste at River Jam and educate about food waste at River Jam 8/16/25. The commissioners present agreed to give something but wanted more details about the educational piece of this service. The Commission doesn't have a big budget for fiscal 2026 and there has been no discussion about how to spend it. Brad will get more details on the request for the next Commission meeting 8/4.
5. 8/19/25 is the proposed opportunity for the Sustainability Commission to present its 2025 action to City Council. We will make a complete list of all our work to present and have commissioners resent these works. There was a discussion of the actions taken in fiscal 2025.
6. Including City Hall artwork in the Art Walk events will probably be dropped because access to the building is not easy to manage in the evening.
7. River Jam is happening Saturday, 8j/16/25, in the afternoon. The Sustainability Commission needs volunteers to manage the table exhibit there.
8. There was a long discussion about the Community Action Grants that are due the end of August. From the list of topics proposed by the Community Action Grants committee, four topics were noted that were consistent with the Biddeford Climate Action Plan. Brad noted that this grant does encourage inter-community collaboration, viz., Biddeford and Saco. The 4 topics are:
 - a. bicycle/pedestrian plans,
 - b. energy audits of municipal buildings,
 - c. downtown tree-planting to provide shade and less heat,
 - d. developing a Farmers Market for 2026.

9. The discussion suggested we negotiate a project with Saco to make a collaborative bicycle/pedestrian plan and submit it for a grant. It was also suggested that we negotiate with Saco to implement a collaborative tree-planting grant for next year. Brad said that communities can submit one grant per year.
10. There was discussion about the speed bump on Rte 1 in Saco near Walgreens. Patrick is going to discuss with Saco authorities how to move the barriers that interrupt the bicycle lanes and made it unsafe.