

## SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION, CITY OF BIDDEFORD

January 5, 2026

Present: Brad Favreau, Jeff Goldsmith, Will Kochtitsky, Max Zakian, Mikaela Greenwald, Patrick Conlon

Absent: Joie Grandbois, Brad Crickard, Bev Thorpe

Guests from the community: Holly, John, Cathy,

We have a quorum.

1. The minutes for 12/1/25 meeting of the Sustainability Commission (SC) were unanimously approved. Patrick made the motion and Mikaela seconded.
2. Officers are elected annually. We deferred the selection of candidates and vote until the next meeting 1/26/26 to give more Commissioners a chance to be selected and to vote on the ballot. The next meeting is scheduled a week later because 1/19 is a national holiday.
3. The SC voted to Adopt a Park the last Commission meeting in December. Jeff is on the calendar to monitor the Park this week. We reviewed the duties expected in the winter season. A community guest Holly commented that her organization felt that volunteers for city parks should be recognized publicly to honor their efforts and encourage more residents to volunteer in the future. She and John brought 3 posters to display, to recognize the volunteers.
4. There was some discussion about the SC presentation/participation at the Planning Department's workshop in early December. The EV Charging Ordinance was approved with some reservations. The fee for "in lieu" decisions was put to a minimal amount because the Planning Department would not approve the larger amounts that were in the Ordinance. The revised EV Ordinance was sent to the Policy Committee of the City.
5. The revisions to the Landscaping Ordinance were discussed. Brad will address Max's questions. There was a discussion about landscaping and how new trees and bushes can obstruct vehicles' views of traffic as they pull out of a side street on to another street. Patrick made a motion to add: "no Screening and/or Buffering shall be installed in places that would obscure the sightlines necessary for safe traffic circulation." This was seconded by Mikaela and unanimously approved.

6. There was a discussion of the 2026 Strategic Plan for the Sustainability Commission. Brad reviewed the actions taken in 2025. There was a long discussion about which topics should be included in the SC Strategic Plan: including Tree Ordinance, Shade Ordinance. No Mow Lawns, Beach Grass Planting as a Nature-based Solution to beach erosion, Solar Energy and City Property, Food Waste reduction using Composting and programs like Garbage to Garden, Increasing Bicycle Access and Increasing Bicycle Racks at City Properties, Promoting Biddeford School Curricula items related to Climate Change, bicycle use and management of food waste.
7. Jeff Goldsmith made a motion to adjourn the SC meeting, seconded by Mikaela. It was approved unanimously at 7pm.