

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION, CITY OF BIDDEFORD

February 2, 2026

Present: Brad Favreau, Will, Jeff, Bev, Mikaela, Max, Brad

Visitors: Kevin and Kathy

Absent: Joie, Patrick, Nadia

1. We have a quorum
2. Minutes of Commission meeting 1/5/26
 - a. Bev made a motion to approve, Jeff seconded the motion, unanimously approved without edits
3. Wednesday, February 4th Planning Board meeting is workshop format
 - a. Max will present the Landscaping Ordinance, tried to schedule it early at 5pm
4. Sustainability Commission elected new officers for 2026
 - a. No term limits, term is one year
 - b. Jeff made a motion to have Will Kochtitsky as chair of the Commission, 2nd by Max, unanimously approved
 - c. Bill made a motion to have Max be Vice-Chair of the Commission, 2nd by Jeff, unanimously approved
 - d. Max made a motion to have Jeff Secretary of the Commission, 2nd by Mikaela, unanimously approved
5. Work Plans for 2026
 - a. The SC got a \$72,000 grant from the Community Resilience Partnership. The mission is to review the energy efficiency of Municipal buildings. Unused money is returned to the grantors. It includes 7 buildings: City Hall, Martin Center, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, old teen center, and public TV station. The reviewing team will give energy efficiency recommendations after interviewing the building staff and holding two public engagement meetings.

- b. Solar Ordinance and EV Ordinance are currently in process of Biddeford's review.
 - c. The SC will revamp the smart education high school grant and resubmit it to Gulf of Maine Research Institute.
 - d. Max will continue to work on ordinances for Landscaping and Trees (including shade trees).
 - e. Dune Grass and Dune Restoration will be managed by Jeff and Will. The Mayor has scheduled a public meeting with City Council in early June to gather feedback.
 - i. Max made a motion to have a Public Hearing at the June 6th City Council meeting and develop a Beach Management Plan for Biddeford. Mikaela seconded the motion and it was unanimous.
 - f. Community Solar Campaign for municipal buildings and this project will incorporate the energy efficiency report.
 - g. Mikaela will champion the food waste and composting projects.
 - h. Patrick will champion the bicycle usage enhancement projects.
 - i. The SC will continue caring for the park at the corner of Main St and Elm St.
6. Discussion about the No Idling law in Maine. It may only involve commercial vehicles. Police cars, emergency vehicles, and Fire vehicles can idle a long time and may be required to do so.
 7. Discussion about the upcoming meeting with UNE's Jenn Brousseau about trees and her students in that class.
 8. Discussion about wildfires in Maine during 2025.
 9. Guests initiated a discussion about "green" landscaping management, pesticides, herbicides, and essential oils.
 10. Mikaela made a motion to adjourn and Max 2nd the motion. It was unanimously approved 6:50