

## 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.