

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2026

PRESENT: Brad Favreau, Will Kochtitzky, Jeff Goldsmith, Bev Thorpe, Nadia Crockett, Joie Grandbois, Mikaela Greenwood, Patrick Conlon, Emily McCauley

Absent: Brad Crickard, Max Zakian

Guests: Kathy, Kevin, Kate Brown & Samantha from Biddeford Public Market, Kim Matthews, 5 UNE students

1. Quorum present
2. Minutes from 3/16/26 unanimously approved without corrections, motion by Patrick, 2nd by Joie.
3. Kate Brown presented a slide show to the SC about the Biddeford Public Market. They are requesting financial aid from the SC for \$3000. Joie made a motion to approve a \$3000 donation and request they come back to us with an additional request, 2nd by Mikaela, unanimously approved.
 - a. The Biddeford Public Market was designed “not to compete” with the Saco Farmers’ Market. It was set on Wednesday evening to attract residents after normal work hours and was not focused as a farmers’ market. It has local artisans as vendors and did sell some local produce. The Market thought that regional farmers wanted to see how popular it was --because they were selling their produce “at home”, without packing up and traveling to Biddeford. The Market was designed to collaborate with local music events, and they will do this same this summer. There will be two markets in May, one in June, three in July, and one in August. They receive funding from vendors, sponsors, grants and music events with whom they collaborate. Last summer they had ‘Bumper Crop’ certificates to encourage local residents to engage with the Market. There was discussion about ways that the SC could help them in future years.
4. There was a detailed discussion about the development of a Biddeford Beach Management Plan this year. Jeff made a motion to have the SC present a description of a Biddeford Beach Management Plan to Biddeford City Council on June 9th as part of a public workshop. A small subcommittee of commissioners was proposed to further the development of a Biddeford plan, reporting back to the SC in the Fall. It was 2nd by Mikaela and passed unanimously. Jeff Goldsmith and Will Kochtitzky were appointed to be the working subcommittee by the SC.
5. There was a detailed discussion about the SC participation in the Biddeford Earth Day events on Saturday, April 25.
 - a. The SC will have a table set up across Main St. from City Hall. They will have gifts for visitors, including some small composting bins, some packets of clover seeds.

- b. Bev made a motion to buy a button making machine and required resources to help residents make Earth Day buttons. The purchase is not to exceed \$200 and the SC will own the materials for future use. Jeff 2nd the motion and it was passed unanimously. It will be used at the SC table during the Earth Day event on April 25th.
 - c. Bev made a motion to get clover seeds and required resources not to exceed \$100 to do this. Joie 2nd the motion and it was approved unanimously.
 - d. The SC will collaborate with Biddeford Beat, the SC newsletter, and Heart of Biddeford newsletter to publicize these events.
6. Mikaela discussed her progress on the SC composting project. She spoke with Garbage to Garden and will gather more information from them to see how Biddeford can get them to provide local pickup.
7. Brad Favreau discussed a plan to use the SC Work Plan to develop a timeline for the projects to unfold and be presented regularly to the SC. Each project will have a point person who will find a regional expert of this topic, have the point person speak to the Biddeford Grant writing person about grants that might fund the project, and, if appropriate, have this expert present to SC. The point person will be given dates to speak to the SC during regular commission meetings.
8. There was discussion about reducing SC meeting to once per month for June, July, and August. Mikaela made a motion to do this change in the schedule, Bev 2nd the motion, and it was passed unanimously.
9. It was moved, 2nd and passed unanimously to adjourn at 7:08pm EDT.