

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
PRACTICES

March 31, 2016 MEETING

DATE: March 31, 2016
TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 PM
PLACE: CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

AGENDA

In attendance: : Peter Britz, Bert Cohen, Patrick Ellis, Josh Denton, Jacob Levenson, Bob Lister, Rachel Mooers, Drew Stadterman, Wes Tator

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 3, 2016

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of City Council Presentation

- Presentation will take place in September, on Tuesday the 6th, followed by a work session a few months later
- Brainstorm of ideas for zero carbon output in Portsmouth by 2016: reducing food waste, capturing methane waste, curbside recycling/compost pickup, solar energy/panels, tidal energy, energy retro all, LED and Green certifications on buildings, pay as you throw, all building materials are red list free, net zero water, passive rec. program, reservations for city pool, plastic bag ban, storm water run-

- off, gray matter systems, educating every day recycling, more solar in HDC, street trees, resilient for 100 years out, C-PACE, LED, PACE
- Give specifics in presentation, especially on more complicated issues such as CPACE
- Education of people on recycling, such as what can be recycled and the benefits of recycling
- Whether to educate the City Council on long term goals or short term goals
- Start the presentation by focusing on bigger ideas such as climate change, and then move on to narrower topics such as recycling and LED certifications on buildings
- Addressing the long-term benefits of changes such as C-PACE and LED certifications
- Possibility of mentioning Paris Climate Conference and its significance in the presentation
- What to focus on in the presentation: curbside food waste pick up, C-PACE, efforts at the high school towards sustainability, etc.

2. Portsmouth Recycling Presentation

- Presentation by Jacob Levenson
- Primary reason for recycling is to sustain resources
- One of the main goals for the upcoming year is to educate the public
- History of recycling in Portsmouth: started with scrap metal recycling, in the late 80s a recycling committee was formed
- Modern program includes curbside collection which services 5,244 houses
- Portsmouth has an average diversion rate of 55% over the last 5 years (22% composting and 33% recycling)
- Portsmouth has had success with recycling, and average waste rates are below the national average due to this
- The diversion rate has continued to increase over the past two decades
- Transportation costs for recyclables have gone up due to a shift in the materials that people are recycling, people are recycling more plastic, which takes up more space than paper for the same weight
- Portsmouth recycling program is trying to increase efficiency through means such as optimizing routes of curbside pickup
- In 2015, the number of trash and recycling trucks were decreased, by increasing the number of houses serviced by each

- Working towards making a better logo and having it be standard throughout recycling containers throughout Portsmouth with the use of stickers and metal plaques

3. Committee Background as Context for Moving Forward

4. Committee vision and priorities

- carbon tax in Portsmouth
- biodigestors
- continue to talk about an advisory committee for recycling

5. C-PACE Josh will intro our letter to the council at this Monday's meeting

6. Sustainable Portsmouth Update A new direction with SP developing a Handprint Party at homes of folks in the community to move toward reducing their footprint and increasing their handprint

7. Sustainability Alliance: The Alliance is forming to support Seacoast Sustainability organizations to synergize energy for each member group to better meet the goals.

8. Discussion of Upcoming Meetings

- Next meeting is being held on April 21st
- Order for minutes and facilitation of meetings: Rachel, Wes, Andrew, Bert, Jacob, Jordan, Josh, Larry, Madison, Patrick, Peter, Robert, Wes

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT