

Sustainability Committee for the City of Portsmouth - Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 02/27/2025

Time: 6:30-8:30

Location: Conference Room A City Hall

Facilitator: Bert Cohen

Minute Taker: Jessica Blasko (Remotely)

Next Meeting Date: 3/27/2025

Next Meeting Facilitator: Colleen Spear

Next Meeting Minute Taker: Effie Malley

Committee Members Present: Kate Homet (Planning & Sustainability Dept), Bill Lyons, Fred Calcinari, Nancy Novelline Clayburgh (School Board member covering for Leigh Hudson), Josh Denton (City Councilor), Effie Malley, Bert Cohen

Committee Members Present via Zoom: Jessica Blasko, Chas Sullivan, Maxson Ward

Committee Members Excused Absent: Torey Brooks, Colleen Spear, Rhianne Tallarico

Committee Members Unexcused Absent: NA

Invited Guests of Meeting: Kurt Yuengling (NHDES)

Additional Meeting Guests: Kate Cook (City Councilor), Peter Britz (Planning and Sustainability Department), John Robinson, Tyler Garzo, Emily, Kay McCallion (Zoom), Kristen Shaw (Portsmouth Health Dept via Zoom), Anka Vidacic, Drago Vidacic

Meeting Recording URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzjPaFdIJ_Y&t=15s

Agenda Item: Acceptance of Minutes

Discussion: Effie Malley had some edits

Motions/Decisions/Follow Up: Minutes Approved Unanimously

Key Person: N/A

Agenda Item: Vacancy on Committee

Discussion: Currently have one open position on committee- posted on city newsletter and on city website, need someone on committee or potential new member to serve on Energy Advisory Committee (normally once a month on Wednesday)

Motions/Decisions/Follow Up: Fred Calcinari may be interested to serve on Energy Advisory Committee

Key Person: N/A

Agenda Item: Resources available to committee members on City website including a new training and handbook resource to understand rules for volunteering to serve on committee

Discussion: Kate Cook reported city legal dept. will be reaching out to all members with information as well.

Motions/Decisions/Follow Up: Members welcome to review independently and/or look for email from legal dept.

Key Person: Committee Members

Agenda Item: Presentation by Kurt Yuengling from NHDES regarding NH's Climate Action Plan

Discussion: Review of process from initial “Priority Climate Action Plan” to current “Comprehensive Climate Action Plan” that is currently being worked on

Motions/Decisions/Follow Up:

Ways to Get Involved

1. Look at other Climate, Sustainability and Master Plans from around NH and neighboring states
2. Technical Input Sessions- Emails to CPRG (Climate Pollution Reduction Grant) team
3. Recommend Measures to include on Comprehensive Plan
4. Virtual Meetings on each sector of plan Jan-May 2025
5. Formal Public Comments Periods June-October 2025

Key Person: N/A

Agenda Item: Rules and Procedures for Committee

Discussion: Reviewed draft from City legal dept and revisions recommended by Effie Malley line by line. Not to duplicate ordinance in rules and procedures, minute taker discussion

Motions/Decisions/Follow Up: Add to next month's agenda

Key Person: N/A

Agenda Item: Committee Ordinance being updated at City Council

Discussion: Josh Denton reported had 2nd reading at last City Council meeting, 3rd reading coming up

Motions/Decisions/Follow Up: Await Council approval for change in membership and quorum requirements in rules and procedures

Key Person: N/A

Agenda Item: Delay City Council Presentation

Discussion: Delay from April to later date TBD, need for further work on City's CAP

Motions/Decisions/Follow Up: Delay Presentation

Key Person: N/A

Agenda Item: Preparation for March CAP Planning Meeting

Discussion: Have all committee members review City's CAP, especially Chap 4, the road map, and pick actions that you would like to see the committee focus and work on in the next year or two, for the committee to discuss at next meeting

Motions/Decisions/Follow Up: Committee members review CAP and bring actions that they are motivated by, or specific sections (for ex. Renewable energy, waste, etc.)

Key Person: Entire Committee

Items for Next Month's Agenda

1. Final Review and Potential Vote on Rules and Procedures for Committee
2. Purpose of Talking Points gathered for last month's statewide CAP presentation
3. Discussion of Committee Members interest/priority of actions and/or sections of city's CAP for committee's focus