

REAC Minutes December 8th 2014

1. Approve last meeting's minutes
2. Introduction of new members

Introduction from current members, John and Jed, Ania introduced herself.

Andy Jones—moved to town in August, lives with Tyler Kidder who's the Sustainability Coordinator at USM, she's also on the plastic bag committee in Portland. Cathy Nichols, new to Falmouth, 20 years' experience in Environmental science, has experience in the natural gas industry. Pete LaFond—works in the legal field. Pete Dootz—telecommunications, has a degree in environmental science.

3. New roles and passing of roles—need someone to take minutes. John would like to create a system where the chair gets passed on. The idea of the vice chair becoming the chair. An evolving chair position was discussed. Another role that Michelle played was putting together a monthly newsletter, need someone to edit the newsletters.

Discussed meeting days—decided on the first Thursday of the month. Kimberly will follow up with Ellen on meeting room availability.

4. Confirm big 5

John led the discussion on the big 5. A few meetings ago, we had to committee focus on five major goals which could be measured. Pete recommended confirming on the 5 big things. The five things include: to increase the amount of streets with bike lanes; to reduce the kW used by the entire town; to reduce the carbon dioxide equivalents emitted by the town (everyone or municipal?); to increase the number of alternative energy installations in town; increase the number of EV or hybrid vehicles registered in town (energy efficient vehicles).

Do we want to reduce the CO2 e's for the town, or by everyone? Is the residential sector even measurable? Pete Dootz—my issue with the big 5, their all interesting, but what is the gain? Where do we go from there? Is our goal to reduce it? Or just to track it? There should be a cost-analysis done for each one. We can't really measure CO2 of the entire town, but we can for the municipality. Should we prioritize these? Should we eliminate some of these? What is there to be gained from these? Do we have the capability to compare our emissions to something out? Compare with square footage of each building? Kimberly will follow up with the assessing department to gather that information.

Cathy—as we reach progressive states, air pressure systems with natural gas. Pete LaFond—is the role of the committee to take direction from the council?

The overlap of the big 5 seems natural, but REAC needs to focus on what the council is being asked. The big 5 can be used to measure success at the beginning and end of each year. Pete LaFond is going to discuss the solar installation at Maine Audubon and will follow up with Kimberly.

John—motions to make these 5 annual measurements a goal for our committee? Pete Dootz recommends some of the big 5 are “gray” and may be need adjusted. Jed thinks we should focus on what we can measure, and it can give us credit in the future. John thinks we should table this item.

5. Review, revise and confirm plastic bag report to the council—*written recommendation due early January 2015*

As it's drafted, the recommendation calls for a ban on plastic and a fee on paper. REAC has decided to write the recommendation to include a ban on plastic and fee of 25 cents on paper. Ania—is there going to be an education piece with this? What is the educational campaign that is going to happen? There are recommendations in the document Kimberly provided. Kimberly will investigate if the town can give a reusable bag to all residents. Need to reach out to other communities to determine what the strategies were those were used and what were the results? Better define the impacts; the objective should be clear, and the options (3 strategies). Kimberly will add suggestions to the report and email to group for additional feedback by the end of the week.

6. Energy Fair

Determine outreach efforts to include adding event into newsletters. Delegating work to committee members. Pete and Jed will work on the food aspect of things, Pete will work on the outreach and Pete and John will work on donations from businesses. Michelle will add event to the principle notes. Ania will ask the student group if they'd like to design the flier for this year's event.

7. Energy report to council—John and Kimberly will plan to meet together to work on the draft report. Pete LaFond will work with the solar aspect; Pete Dootz will work on the wind ordinance aspect. The report will be drafted and reviewed by the committee for the next meeting.