

REAC Minutes

January 10, 2019 Falmouth Town Hall, 5:30pm

Introductions—new faces Lynn Breckenridge and Rich Bicknell are interested in joining REAC. Committee members shared their backgrounds/work and interest in the committee.

- **Update on Acadia Center's Dec 4th Event**

Governor Janet Mills was the keynote speaker and ended the conference with a positive message of being committed to renewable energy policy development in Maine, and mentioned that we need to start putting plans to action.

- **Municipal Energy Coalition**—discussed the energy priorities put forth by this coalition which will brought to the legislation. The coalition at this time includes: South Portland, Portland, Windham (possibly), Scarborough and Falmouth. Would like to see more rural communities added to the effort. A Municipal Energy Working Group was developed when working on streetlights and early solar legislation—this new one is a modern version of that.

The three priorities set forth include: revising the states solar energy policy to favor larger scale systems, allowing municipalities to adopt “stretch” building codes, and streamlining access to building energy data from the utility. *Kimberly will send the document to the committee

- **Home Energy Fair**

Assigned committee to door prizes and will update the table and *email to committee

Kimberly is going to ask Ricetta's for vendor lunch

Coffee by the Design is assigned to Pete

Lynn will pick up flowers from Skillins

*Kimberly will get safety vests for parking attendants

Dick is assigned to lead the ride-and-drive vehicle station, and then will come attend table until 1

Lynn, Dick and Pete will come in the morning from 9-11

Alan, Donna and Rich will be 1-4 for end of day and cleanup

- **Some new/revisited work for this year**

Discussion of splitting the group into subcommittees

—One on energy and the other on waste reduction

Waste reduction subcommittee: Donna, Dick, Rich, Alan

*February 6th, Wednesday 9:00-10:30am meeting with Kimberly

Topics for the waste committee to discuss will include:

- **Styrofoam**

- Straws
- Plastic bag ban
- High School Recycling
- Recycling and contamination

Energy subcommittee: Lynn, Pete, Dave

Topics for the energy committee to discuss will include:

- Business Energy Forum—March 21st
 - This is an effort with the Economic Improvement Committee. Hoping to have the event at TideSmart's Viridescent House—will report back to the committee on their involvement once more information is known.
 - Solar policy and new legislation
 - Building codes/ new construction requirements (if allowed)
- **Solar discussion**

The committee reviewed and discussed a new timeline Kimberly developed with the Finance and Public Works Director. The Town Manager has always been pro-solar since Falmouth began looking at this project in late 2015—but is stern on not issuing a bid until we know for certain policy changes will occur to favor the project, and that the financial analysis has been vetted properly.
 - **Other business**

Falmouth Center—REAC would like to write some sort of letter recognizing building energy and the need to focus on this. Will add this to the February agenda.