

Minutes June 6, 2109

Attendance:

Donna Cheney, Lynn Breckinridge, Pete LaFond, Alan Solander, Hope Cahan (Councilor), Dave Low, Rich Bicknell

Absent: Dick Klain

Also present: Lexi Anderson—Sustainability Intern and Police Chief Kilbride

May minutes were approved.

Quick discussion about alert from Channel 6 Pete received about town landing. Chief Kilbride spoke about the air temperature raising and the ocean temperature being cold which is dangerous if folks chose to go swimming.

- **Police chief Kilbride to discuss plans of integrating electric vehicles into police fleet**

Chief Kilbride has been with the department for 20 years and says he is always looking to being more efficient and reduce the impact in the environment. He discussed Idle-right technology being introduced to the fleet and Falmouth being one of the first departments to do so years ago. He mentioned that Ford is rolling out a package of hybrid and plug in vehicles, which would add another 12 mph and cut out the idling piece. They have a higher performance rating versus the gas options, and he has ordered 2 that are coming in the fall, in October. Roughly \$40k is spent annually in fuel consumption and his goal is to go hybrid throughout the whole police fleet.

The admin car he piloted is a ford fusion plug in hybrid, 20 miles with the electric motor to 80mph, will need a charging station at the police department. Kimberly has provided information to the Chief on grants and other funding opportunities for this. Chief is exploring all hybrids SUV replacing the current Ford Explorers which are very fuel inefficient. For the plug-in hybrid fusions for the admin cars, they are 40mpg for the hybrid versus 20mpg for the current sedans. They costs about \$6K more (\$36,100), but wants to get that in a return within 2 years because of the fuel savings. Admin rotation currently is 5 years; would like to go to 6 years, and with the police cruisers/patrol are on a 3 years cycle, and would like to go to a 4 year cycle. South Portland is getting a few of these hybrid SUVs.

Pete LaFond wonders about other departments and having a green vehicle purchasing policy.

110 miles are typically put on a police vehicle today. NYPD has been a huge driving force, as well as LAPD in the transition to these more fuel efficient vehicles. Discussed the difference between a regular car and a police rated car. Also discussed the future of charging stations being powered with solar panels.

- **Landfill solar RFP next steps**

Every Friday at 9am Pete joins a NRCM solar call. They have been following the bills in the legislature; members of that solar coalition have been very optimistic. There is opposition from the Industrial Energy group, but overall the bill is gaining good support; 10-2 vote out of the Energy and Utilities Committee.

- **Recycling tagging internship summer program**

Kimberly explained the program and Lexi was there to also give her insight on the training that has been done over the last week. The neighborhoods that will be focused on include Tuesdays in Pleasant Hill (Stapleford) and Wednesday in the flats. The program will run from June- mid August.

- **Business recycling survey with FEIC**

The group suggests that the food waste question be reworked. "What are you doing with your food waste?" is suggested. Also need to add to question on how many employees. Lynn wonders what the objective of this survey is. Dave is hoping this information gathering can produce an ordinance which would require businesses to recycle and/or compost. More discussion is needed on this.

- **5th graders plastic straw presentation to Town Council June 17**

Three fifth graders from the Falmouth Elementary School will be delivering a presentation at the June 17 Council meeting on their success of eliminating plastic straws at the entire school campus. Because there will be a ban on plastic shopping bags, as well as Styrofoam across the state in the one-two years, REAC has chosen to focus on eliminating plastic straws in Falmouth. The group is hopeful the presentation from the students will give us insight to the political will from the new Council on whether or not we should pursue an ordinance on plastic straws.

- **Other business—storm water program fact sheet.**

The committee reviewed this and was asked to follow up with Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director if there were any questions.

- **June 26th, is the volunteer banquet**

The next REAC meeting is July 11, August will be off, and September will be on the 5th.

Business Sustainability Recognition idea. This would likely work best on a quarterly basis; this would be good to tie into the survey, and maybe add a part about open ended.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.