

REAC Minutes

August 8, 2019, 5:30pm

Large Conference Room

Present: Pete LaFond, Alan Solander, Donna Lee Cheney, Rich Bicknell, Dick Klain

Absent: Dave Low, Lynn Breckinridge, Councilor Cahan

1. Report from interns re recycling

The Town Council's Monday, August 12th meeting has this on the agenda. Kimberly read the summary report from the interns which is attached to the Town Council agenda; the presentation will be attached to the agenda on Monday before the meeting

2. Report on Business survey re recycling

Kimberly displayed the spreadsheet with the Business Recycling Survey data to the group and provided printed copies. The group had a discussion on what information has been collected, and discussed next steps with this to include:

3. Subcommittee re straws etc.

A group of 5th graders presented to the Town Council on their efforts to eliminate plastic straws at the entire School Department back in June. Kimberly has worked Melissa Gates at the Surfriders Foundation who will be a great resource to utilize moving forward. The group discussed next steps, which includes Kimberly preparing a business inventory and questionnaire

4. Food waste drop off

Community Park will be our West-Side location. We were hopeful of the Legion Fields for the second/East location, but the Legion members voted it down. We still need to work on this side of town's location and have a deadline for the grant funds of October 7, 2019. Public works has the material for the kiosks and will be building them soon. Kimberly has been working with a local sign company in Westbrook for the kiosk signs.

5. Solar: RFP status and report on meeting with Finance Director, Town Manager and Public Works etc., explain new legislation that restores net metering, removes limits on acct numbers increases from 660 to 5 MW; demand charges? next steps?

The RFP needs to be polished up. Kimberly presented what she has completed for the Energy Data appendix. She began conversations with SolSmart, who partners with the Solar Foundation, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and many others. SolSmart has a solar designation program, which Falmouth would be the first in Maine (they have worked with over 285 communities nationwide), where NREL would offer technical assistance. All of this support will come at no costs to the Town. The RFP will be presented to the Town Council in the fall before it is released.

6. National Drive Electric-TideSmart, September 14 12-3pm

We will be working with Cumberland and Yarmouth on this event again. From Denny Gallaudet in Cumberland, "I have lined up Pape Chevrolet to showcase the Bolt and have a call into Pape Subaru for the Subaru Crosstrek PHEV, one of the first SUVs. Cumberland EV users can be counted on for Tesla, Nissan EV's and the Prius Prime." Kimberly has secured Lee Nissan will also be there in attendance. Efficiency Maine has offered to sponsor the ad we will run the forecaster for the event. Kimberly showed the road signs as well. Last year we saw roughly 100 people—let's shoot for 200 this year!

7. **Phase two interior lighting to begin within the next month-two:** Winn Rd Fire, transfer Station and Mill Garage.
8. **Union of Concerned Scientists re: important federal renewable energy legislation**
Rich Bicknell offered to take the lead on this and will report out. The committee voted unanimously to send this letter to Senator Susan Collins.

Save the dates!

- Town Council August 12 Intern Recycling Presentation
- September 5, REAC meeting
- Saturday, September 14, Drive Electric at TideSmart
- October TBD—Senior Recycling Program at Community Programs and a winter/spring regular one
- November 9-12—WindowDressers
- January 25—Home Energy Fair