

# REAC Minutes 2016

## REAC Meeting March 17, 2016

Attendees:

Kimberly

Andy

Pete Lafond

Pete D

Cathy – note taker

Denny Gallaudet – From Cumberland, a member of the Climate Action Team of Sierra Club

The team has 5 members.. Their goal is carbon reduction. Want to reduce the town's carbon foot print by 50%.

Cumberland's energy committee is similar to REAC but not as productive and has disbanded, nothing to work on

### Solar Testimony done by Kimberly and Peter L

100 were in support, 2 against. Good turn out thanks to NRCM, school kids.

Next steps: Tues-Thursday will be working on a plan to pass the bill. New policy proposing that the compensation will be in dollar amount not KW so you can off set all of it. With net metering, only a small unit could be built.

Belfast has a small 120Kw project.

There is hope. Governor supports the electric vehicle infrastructure

Kimberly showed a map of the solar panels on the landfill:

Would produce 25% of all the municipal energy load

1,125,000Kw hours of energy

Will install a "3-Phase" near the road for \$10,000.

Life span of panels, warranty is 20 years. Usually they cost is paid off by then and then it's free power. Financial models still need to be completed

The 30% tax credit cannot be claimed by the town so a private entity has to do it and Falmouth buys the energy from them.

Not much maintenance, just need to mow grass.

Did CMP lobby for a new limit? No

660kW was the limit as it was what the first wind mill generated

Taking the solar system off the grid would be very difficult. battery storage a problem

### Compost Collection

Decided that our next big project should be curb-side compost pick up.

Andy will talk to Nathan about the status, obstacles, and see what REAC can do.

Issue is the cost.

Casella has a system where compost is picked up weekly and the other side of the truck alternated between recycling and trash.

Once Nathan gets more data, he'll ask REAC to help out.

Other limitation is space at ecomaine.

Casella may not have any facilities for processing compost.

Kimberly said she heard residents worry about no lids on recyclables.

Andy's idea is to put the yellow trash bags directly on top the blue recycle totes.  
Waiting 2 weeks may not be reasonable for recyclables as generation is high.  
Bigger cans? 4,000 home est.

#### GrowSmart Energy Panel

Kimberly and Larry Pritchett will be presenting at 8:30 am +++

#### New Members?

Maybe Jed will come back.

Get high school students. **Kimberly will reach out**

Find Marcus – young man who proposed installing small groups, family-owned panels

#### Energy Plan Update:

Kimberly added street lights to inventory so they can convert to LEDs. Town Mgr has been pushing a bill to own, not rent them. Proposals in place, interviews coming. Time consuming to calculate energy volumes/costs from all the bills.

Need to update Town Council on revised Energy Plan before presenting to school board.

Some of the lights are 30 years old. Not efficient. CMPs charges for use of their street lights.

Bids reflect financing, swap out, maintenance

#### Bag Ordinance

Goes into effect in a few weeks

#### Feedback

Sent letters to big 6 stores. No response. Other than Dunkin Donuts, and Kim discussed eliminating styrene. Shaws is ready. Walmart has never done this in Maine. Goodwill wanted to get rid of all bags, but is ready to implement fee.

#### Bag Giveaway before Ordinance starts

200 bags to give out.

#### Forecaster

Article will go out next week. General discussion about the ordinance

#### Outreach/Education ideas

#### Other

Take a tour of school wood boiler. Maybe instead of the monthly meeting

Denny spoke about Cumberland's energy usage. Challenge is number of cars used. Want to add electronic charging stations. Natural gas pipeline runs down Tuttle Rd to town municipalities and schools.

## **REAC Minutes September 15, 2016**

New Member Brad Peirce!

Started the Maine environment sustainability Network

Kimberly has been working with Ecomaine who put out an RFP searching for a municipality to pilot a composting endeavor. Are using clear thin film bags to easily ID organic materials.

Goes to Exeter Agri-Energy for anaerobic digester to make power. Not sure how it will work on a municipal scale. KD wants to enhance Falmouth's by using bins. Take savings from tipping fees (waste tonnage) can be used to supplement compost. K meets with Ecomaine's CEO Sept 17 to see if it is economically viable. Ecomaine is seeking a municipality to pilot this compost project. Need to determine if Falmouth is interested in curb-side compost.

Steps:

Research

propose to Council

Budget may come from taxes, but there will be a cost savings by removing the low BTU waste that will be passed on the this curbside compost program.

Food Waste Study 2010 tabulates cost savings by removing organics from waste stream.

Scarborough is also interested in the pilot program.

Reusable bag ordinance

Kimberly will be asking the 6 businesses that had to charge for thin film bags how they are doing, and how many bags they gave out and purchased, etc. Lots of feedback requested, any innovations for reducing bag use, employee participation.

Mackworth Island clean up this Sunday, 8 am and evening TBD.

Movie nights at Falmouth Library. Some money budgeted for movie licenses and popcorn. Movie ideas needed. Patagonia dams, Microcosm, Symphony of the Soil, Andy to spearhead movie nights, 7 pm start.

Election Day is an opportunity to gauge town interest for curbside composting. Borrow ecomaine material to attract people to the desk and take the survey: do you compost? curbside or home? Interest in city curbside?

Energy Plan

Work Plan shows to do list by sector with fiscal year due dates. Members need to review and assess priorities and interest, attainable?

is anything missing?

Pick 2 items you are interested in helping with

Cathy does Transportation items

Thursdays 7 pm

**REAC Minutes, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**Town Hall, Large Conference Room**  
**7:00-8:30pm**

In Attendance: Kimberly Darling, Andy Jones, Pete LaFond, Chris Malley, Cathy Nichols

Updates:

- Solar

The PUC is working to end net-metering. What a shame. We will see what happens in the next legislative session.

- Curbside Compost Collection

There was a meeting on October 31<sup>st</sup> with Public Works Director, Town Manager and Finance Director. Falmouth is continuing to move forward with curbside compost pickup.

- Ecomaine

Falmouth schools received a grant for water bottle filling stations.

- Shopping bag ordinance feedback

Kimberley received a tally of plastic bag usage from a few Falmouth's large retailers. We are excited to get more data and see if the ordinance is decreasing bag use.

- WindowDressers

Kimberley explained the concept behind WindowDressers. They cooperatively build window inserts that people can use in their homes to increase the insulation value. REAC decided we want to partner with WindowDressers in Falmouth to get the word out and host a build session for the inserts.

- 2017 Home Energy Fair—January 28<sup>th</sup>

REAC is hoping to come up with some fun thing to add some pizzazz to the Energy Fair this year.

- 2017 Business Energy Fair—April

Kimberley updated REAC members on the plan to hold a business energy fair.

- Update from Conservation Commission on pesticides

REAC Chair Andy Jones attending the last Conservation Commission meeting. The CC has been tasked with researching a pesticide restriction ordinance for Falmouth. It was a preliminary meeting. REAC is glad that we weren't given this particular task by the council, but we would like to offer our support. ☺

## **REAC Minutes December 19th, 2016**

Approved prior meeting minutes.

Karen Bitan, considering being involved with REAC, graduate of Falmouth High, studied ecology in NY. Stayed for first meeting.

### **Updates**

solar- still in PUC, working on bill, Portland and South Portland are moving ahead. Coalition of green groups going to vote on which bills, solar bill likely to be vetoed, but hope for override, Tax incentives phased in until 2021. Falmouth will wait until best policies are in place. Policies in State presently do not support solar.

LED Streetlights, converting to LED, started work, contract signed, Realterm. company, hope to convert all streetlights to LED in 2017.

Eco Maine has a contract to send its organics to Agri-cycle, Falmouth may have a high level of composting, just drafted an RFP for looking for compost collection, picking up recycling, solid waste, RFP waste collection.

Home Energy Fair-14 vendors so far January 28.

Energy Plan- Transportation interests, no idling , education, signage, Establishing Town vehicle guidelines to obtain more fuel efficient vehicles, etc members of committee need to choose things they are interested from the plan, and if they don't, Kimberly will assign by January 1, 2017.

Next meeting Thursday January 19th.