

REAC Minutes May 10th, 2017

Committee reviewed old minutes from 2016, and reviewed minutes from 2017. Committee voted unamoiusly to pass the past meeting minutes.

Welcome new member David Low! Committee went around the table and gave introductions.

Shopping Bag Ordinance—reviewed one years’ worth of data, determine next steps. Committee discussed the steps of going to a referendum, to ban the use of plastic shopping bags. There are at least 5 Maine municipalities who have implemented bans on plastic shopping bags. Walmart in Brunswick has already phased out plastic bags—they are required to do so by September, 2017. With the data we have to date, and assuming our baseline plastic bag use was 2 million/year (estimate from 3 largest stores), bag use has declined roughly 30% with the ordinance. Total bags (including paper and plastic) in the year the ordinance has been in affect (April 1, 2016-April 1, 2017) is 1,349,306, with \$68,478 tendered.

Falmouth Wellness Fair—May 21st

Claudia will lend a popup tent for the event. Committee members will let Kimberly know about helping staff. Committee is considering having a survey of sort at the Wellness Fair. Pete wants to see if Hannaford or another company can donate some reusable bags to give away.

Window Dressers

The committee is ready to measure windows when Kimberly knows more.

Boat Shrink Wrap Recycling Program

Cathy visited two boat yards in Falmouth. We want to work with ecomaine to better understand the emissions from burning this material. We are working with the DEP on this program. The timing for this season wasn’t realistic, so we are going to take this year to better understand the current environment with this material. Discussion also involved bailers that are for sale from the Town of Freeport, and how the material needs to be handled—bailed on site. There are two companies in Maine that already takes this material. We will work over the year to research so for next season we are ready to implement a successful program.

Energy Plan

The committee discussed the topics that they were assigned. We need to determine when to present this information to the Town Council. Kimberly will work with Claudia and the Town Manager to do so.

The committee adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm and went to Portland to the film and discussion by ReVision Energy and the Sierra Club, “The Breakthrough in Renewable Energy” at 516 Congress St., Portland.