

REAC Minutes

November 14, 2018 Falmouth Town Hall, 5:30pm

Minutes from the October meeting were approved unanimously.

Updates and agenda items:

WindowDressers—the build was held November 10-12 and ended early on Monday. 180-190 window inserts were built. The community really enjoys participating in this event. One suggestion for next year would be to ask local restaurants for food donations for volunteers ahead of time. The goal of next year is to have an exclusive Falmouth/Cumberland/ Yarmouth only build.

Streetlights—A close out meeting on the larger project (600 lights) is going to be held on November 15th. A change order has been signed for 17 new lights which are going up for public safety reasons. Still waiting on the utility for billing changes. Once we know what true savings are from the project, it would be good to showcase this on the Town's website.

Interior Lighting—the Town has selected to work with EMC on the second phase of this project. A contract and schedule are being developed. All Town buildings will have new LED fixtures by July 2019. Many fixtures can harvest daylighting, have motion sensors and emergency lighting, and are dimmable. Pilot tests on color temperature, as well as fixtures, will be done in Kimberly's office. REAC is welcome to give their opinions as well.

Food Waste Drop off—The Town received a \$7,500 grant from the DEP to expand the food waste drop off program; site visits were held on Oct. 30 with Kimberly and the PW director to pick potential sites. Kimberly showed REAC the options in Google Earth and asked for an endorsement.

West Falmouth—consensus was reached on the Winn Rd fire station parking lot near the basketball courts.

Central Falmouth—Graves Park on Pleasant Hill Rd was the only option, and the committee liked this. This is a good location due to the density of housing in this area of town.

East/Route 1—the Town owns a park in between the two ice rinks, that is one option. Another option is Legion Fields near the library. Another option is to work with Walmart to situate the drop off in a highly visible location (near option 1)—maybe where the RVs and campers park in the summer. Discussion of Maine Audubon and partnering with them would be a good idea; also, this location speaks to density in the flats, and like-minded people. They have a community garden which would be a good spot. Kimberly will reach out to both Walmart and the Maine Audubon.

School update—potential VW settlement funding opportunity for buses. Kimberly passed this information to the School Dept. and advised them to work with GPCOG on the application. Once she knows more, she will report back to REAC.

Recycling and Contamination & Waste Collection Survey—Reviewed the online data. Alan is going to help Kimberly put in the paper surveys from the elections into the online survey on Monday, so the data is clean and in one place. The committee endorsed liking the current system and feels there is no need to change it. The current online data suggests the same idea. However, REAC did provide some recommendations on covered recycling bins, better PAYT bags/stickers instead.

Town Council Resolution for Energy and Sustainability Plan—The Energy and Sustainability Plan was presented to the Town Council on October 22nd. This Resolution is for the Town Council to vote on to approve the plan on November 26th. The Committee endorsed the Resolution with a unanimous vote.

Solar update from Dave and Pete—The draft RFP from Dave and Pete is not wasted effort, more so will get the Town better suited to bid the landfill project when State solar policy is more favorable. Discussion of having the preliminary report from 2016 by TRC updated—asking the consultant to take a deeper look into Chapter 315, small tracker PV systems, and anything else that may have changed since we first looked at this. After streetlights are complete, and interior lighting conversions begin, Kimberly will have more time to take another look at solar. The Town has locked in 0.066/kWh rates with Electricity Maine that would make a Power Purchase Agreement on solar very difficult at this time. That contract goes from 12/18-12/2020 and is for roughly 80% of the Towns accounts.