

## REAC February 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- **Establish Quorum:** All members present.
- **Citizen's Climate Lobby Presentation on Carbon Fee & Dividend Program**
  - Steve Merz presented
  - Asking Falmouth to endorse a carbon fee and dividend program
  - Gives a fee to carbon – you use more, you pay more; use less, pay less
  - Makes it in the financial interest to use less carbon
  - Gives an advantage to low income households – smaller homes use less carbon
  - Proposing a federal level program – currently exists at State level
  - Why this model?
    - i. Market approach
    - ii. Money goes immediately to the consumers
    - iii. No skimming
  - 16 towns in Maine have already endorsed the program
  - Equitable and inclusive – 2/3 of Americans will do better
  - Does it impact carbon credits?
    - i. Doesn't prevent carbon cap and trade
    - ii. Doesn't replace carbon credit market
  - Funds would need to be collected and dispersed in some way
  - Consumer never sees a bill
  - Producers sees a bill - \$15/metric ton of carbon
  - Consumer gets \$200-\$500 back per year
  - Is calculation tied to legislative bill?
    - i. Yes, it can change if the bill changes
  - 46 countries already do this
  - How do wood/biomass come into play?
    - i. Steve needs to look into this answer
  - Dick attended training this week and learned that the biggest way to reduce carbon is through a carbon fee

### Post-Presentation Discussion

- Carbon fee is very important – not sure if this is the right solution
- Original bill (763) established initial cost per ton of carbon and it will continue to rise
- The advantage of this program is that it is a fee and is a wash for the government
- Falmouth could be in favor of a carbon fee model without being specific about the model
- We can endorse multiple carbon fee models if we find others that we like
- This model is relatively simple and has a lot of inertia behind it – it's easy to get in the weeds
- Would it be better for fee to go to larger sustainable infrastructure?
- It needs to be meaningful to people to incite change
- Isn't it most important to charge the biggest producers first?

- Next steps are to review presentation and ask questions before next meeting
  - Discuss/vote next meeting
  - **Review of Draft Minutes of January 7 Meeting:** Minutes approved unanimously.
  - **Public Comment**  
Public comment was open and closed.
  - **REAC Mission + Duties**
    - Reviewed drafted updated mission and duties
    - Trying to make duties more condensed and look toward the future
    - Saving constituents more money – may need to reword to be clearer
    - Take a month to review and vote next month
    - What are the next steps with Council?
  - **Solar Update**
    - New delays due to CMP infrastructure issues – more to come
  - **Ecomaine Recycling Education Meeting**
    - Met with ecomaine education team, Jeff Buxton, Caleb, Ashley
    - Talked about how to better set up silver bullets
    - We have very low contamination rates
    - Public Works may begin compacting all recyclable material together
    - Need to keep focusing on public education and outreach
    - Share ecomaine report that shows how we do compared to other towns
- Plastic film
- Reach out to local stores to learn more about what happens with plastic film

### **Other Business**

- EV Charging – fall grants will be available for DC Fast Chargers – need to start thinking about locations that would be convenient and have the highest use
  - New building by Shaw's
  - Could a charger be at a gas station?
  - Talk to planning about getting one at the new Development
- Collaboration with FCC – Earth Day + Arbor Day
  - Need to do something tree-related to keep Tree City status
    - Maine Bicentennial idea – 200 tree plantings
  - Earth Day – earthday.org –
    - Route 1 pickup
    - Gray Rd pickup
    - Will have an update after Zoom meeting on Monday

- Bicycle Repair stations – Bicycle Coalition of Maine is installing in Downtown Portland - dero.com fixit station (\$1200-\$1500) – Ashley to connect with Theo re: budget

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:01pm. Next meeting on March 4, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.**