

REAC Minutes June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

In attendance: John, Pete L., Cathy, Councilor Hemphill, Councilor Anderson, Andy, Barb, Kimberly

**Emissions analysis update:** Kimberly met with Julie Rosenbach (South Portland Sustainability) and Ben Lake (GPCOG) about calculating emissions.

**Energy Bills Update:** We continue to follow 3 bills in Augusta. We like LD 1263 and LD 1293 and we don't like LD 1400. The political climate in Augusta is not pro-renewable right now. In fact, it's difficult to accomplish anything in Augusta. The Governor is not in favor of solar.

**Reusable Bags Ordinance:** St Mary's Route 1 cleanup was a success. They found over 70 plastic bags on the side of the road on a one mile stretch.

We are going to do our own cleanup some time either in June or July. Cathy brought up the idea of roads being 'adopted by different groups.

June 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am we are going to meet at the West Falmouth Hannaford's. Cathy is going to bring muffins.

We are going to staff a table at the high school during the municipal elections on June 9<sup>th</sup>. We are going to distribute free reusable bags and educational material about plastic bags.

We are hosting a screening of the film Bag It on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

Committee members discussed distributing more reusable bags. We could buy new bags but we could also get Walmart, Shaw's and Hannaford's to donate bags.

We discussed the timeline for the Reusable Bag Ordinance. Councilor Hemphill and Councilor Anderson told us that ordinance language is likely to be ready in September.

**Endorse Composting at Transfer Station:** Jay Reynolds went to a regional waste conference and got inspired. Freeport is collecting curbside compost by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party and bringing it to the transfer station. Jay wants to do something like that in Falmouth. Councilor Anderson wants to make sure that Falmouth doesn't give compost away for free and undercutting nurseries that sell compost. REAC likes the idea of compost in theory and we want to know more about the proposal.

REAC voted unanimously in favor of more composting options in Falmouth.

**Big 5:** John reiterated that we have chosen two goals for 2015. He also wants us to continue to focus on The Big 5 on the long term. The committee discussed how we will measure our success on our priorities.

**Interest in Appointing Co-Chair:** The committee voted to make appoint Andy a co-chair until in January when a new co-chair will be appointed.