

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee
Sunday, November 14, 2021 - 12:00pm – 12:30pm

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| 1. Call to Order / Intros | 12:00 PM |
| 2. Approval of Letter of Support Re: Planning Dept. Positions | 12:05 |
| 3. Adjournment | 12:30 PM |

Call-In Information for Public Participation

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 853 7402 0115

Passcode: 433922

** Public Comment can be given at this point in the meeting via the Zoom dial in number provided during the televised meeting. Alternatively, written comments in advance of the meeting can be sent to jastle@brunswickme.org and they will be read aloud at the appropriate point in the meeting.

Town of Brunswick, Maine

RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council

FROM: James Ecker
Committee Chair

DATE: November 9, 2021

SUBJECT: Sustainability & Open Town Planning Positions

As discussed at the October 18th Town Council meeting, Town staff are recommending the addition of one position in the Planning Department as well as revisions to the Town Planner's Job Description. One of the justifications for this addition is the fact that existing staff resources have little time left to engage in long-term planning, including comprehensive plan updates, addressing climate change, various sustainability initiatives and natural resources protection issues.

The Recycling and Sustainability Committee strongly endorses the addition of this position and recommends the job description and responsibilities of this position – or perhaps another position already on staff - be modified to ensure the above long-range planning gaps be addressed.

In December 2019, the Town Council unanimously passed a Climate Change Resolution which recognizes the seriousness of the threat climate change is already causing Brunswick's residents and enterprises. The Town Council committed in that resolution to implement measures to address this threat, including committing financial resources and regulatory oversight to help Brunswick adapt and mitigate the effects caused by climate changes.

In December 2020, exactly one year later, the State adopted and began implementation of its climate action plan – "[Maine Won't Wait](#)" - providing a roadmap for state agencies and municipalities to address climate change and related sustainability issues. In addition, many similar size communities in Maine, including Falmouth, South Portland and Windham, have funded sustainability planning positions focused on integrating typically siloed municipal functions – from transportation to waste management to natural resource protection – and to realize the full economic, social and environmental benefits that can come from a staff position dedicated to such planning integration. Job Descriptions from several of these communities are attached for your review.

Our hope is that the Town Council will consider updating and reviewing staff responsibilities to ensure Brunswick, too, is doing the absolute best it can to addressing sustainability planning in all its forms. We think the time is ripe to do so, not only due to the threats we face from climate change, but to also have a keen focus on accessing state and national resources that can advance Brunswick in making investments in sustainable infrastructure, social equity, natural resources protection and related community education programs.

We look forward to assisting the Council in any way we can with this effort.