

Town of Brunswick, Maine

RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Monthly Committee Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 22, 2022 – 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

IN PERSON – TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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| 1. Call to Order / Intros | 4:30 PM |
| 2. Administrative & Brief Updates | 4:35 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval October 25th Minutes• Comprehensive Plan• Maine Climate Resiliency Grant Application | |
| 3. Solid Waste Management Updates – Stephen Wood, Jay | 4:45 |
| 4. 2022 Progress & 2023 Goals – Discussion | 4:55 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of 2022 Goals• 2023 Ideas<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Energy & Sustainabilityii. Solid Waste Managementiii. Public Education• Summarize/Next Steps | |
| 5. 2023 Committee Officers - (Dec Mtg Vote) | 5:45 |
| 6. Public Comment** | 5:50 |
| 7. Adjournment | 6:00 PM |

** 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.

MINUTES
TOWN OF BRUNSWICK RECYCLING & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
Council Chambers - Brunswick Town Hall
25 October 2022

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 4:30 PM.

Members present: Rep Poppy Arford, David Costello, Jamie Ecker (Chair), Jennifer Hicks, Harry Hopcroft, Shelley Raymond, Tom Rumpf, Stephen Wood, Steven Weems.

Town personnel present: Jay Astle (Director of Public Works), Kathy Wilson (Town Council Liaison)

Public present: Bill Good

Introductions of Committee Members and Town Personnel: Personal introduction provided by each person in attendance.

Administration: Jamie Ecker

- Welcome new member Shelley Raymond!
- Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2022: Motion to approve: Harry Hopcroft, 2nd Steve Weems 8 members approved, Tom Rumpf abstains

Vehicle Electrification - Presentation & Discussion – Barry Wood, Revision Energy

Steve Weems provides an overview of the presenter and presentation purpose - education primarily. Barry Wood has a long history in solar energy efforts.

- Senior Director of eMobility at Revision Energy
- Breaks down the company divisions:
 - Commercial and residential solar
 - E-Vehicles:
 - EV Chargers (own and operating and public charging points)
 - Battery storage
 - Advocacy and policy
 - Fleets
- Maine EV plug in goals set:
- EV plug in easier to establish (wherever there is electricity)
- 3 levels of power chargers (slow to fast/cheap to expensive)
- What makes a good site? Set up near population center or a draw for drivers
- Financial incentives available for towns (rebates, utility discounts, grants) - primarily Federal funding (tax credits, EPA, etc.)
- State funding is quite strong for more rural counties

Q&A with Barry Wood

How does the increase in electrification make up for the gas taxes that don't get paid? Will eventually need to restructure taxes so EV owners pay their fair share, but we are still in "early adoption phase".

Most EV brands are compatible with most EV plug-ins.

School bus electrification technology is early...have to consider real cost, subsidy availability, battery size, ways to make it affordable long term. School bus purchases are not fleetwide yet. Need to consider the pollution of electrification (battery production, fossil fuel generated electricity, etc.)

Proposed Committee Resolution

“The Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee supports the 180 day development moratorium proposed for the Maquoit Bay watershed”

Motion

Steve Weems makes a motion to approve the statement of support, Tom Rumpf seconds.

Discussion:

- It's suggested that we ask that the subcommittee be allowed to comment at the town hearing during the moratorium.
- David Costello offers his caution about how to look at development in light of affordable housing.

Motion passed with unanimous vote

Public Education Update – Harry Hopcroft

Senior Expo Recap:

Committee set up a table at PeoplePlus Senior Expo:

- Estimated over 400 people attended, R&S table talked with 100 people.
- Good model for future information tables
- Jamie Ecker thanked Harry and Jay for the effort to put together all of the information for the table, and coordination for the event. It was unquestionably a success.

Ecomaine Kick-off

Have had email exchange with Nate Crounaur at ecomaine about setting up kick off event to provide education/information about recycling and waste reduction

- Suggested date: Saturday, December 3
- Jamie Ecker cautioned that we should schedule this concurrently with another community to ensure we get great foot traffic and exposure.

Action: Education Subcommittee to discuss kick off event further to ensure it will be successful, no decision made on the kick off even and timing at this point

Public Comment:

Bill Good reports that the Brunswick Golf Course is getting solar panels and will electrify golf course

Other Business:

Next meeting: Jay will look into whether to move

Motion: Steve Wood moves to adjourn, Tom Rumpf seconds. Unanimously voted in favor.

Adjournment - 6:02 PM

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee

2022 Goals

Adopted by Committee vote on 1/25/22

Transmitted to the Town Council on 2/2/22

Subject to change/adjustment by Town Council

- 1. Support Council/Staff finalize a 10+ year solid waste & recycling contract with Ecomaine**
(The Town Council voted April 5th, 2021 to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate contracts with Ecomaine for the processing of solid waste and recycling, and Casella for the collection/hauling to get there. Neither have been finalized.)
- 2. Support staff and implementation of the DEP Organics Grant to expand the recycling of residential organics**
(In September 2021 the Town was awarded a grant to implement its “3-Prong Approach” to organics recycling. Implementation has been delayed for several reasons. The Town has two years to use the funds.)
- 3. Support development of an updated baseline GHG emissions profile for the Town**
(This Committee completed the Town’s first Climate Action Plan, which including an estimate of Town/School GHG emissions, in 2009. The Town Council also passed a Climate Emergency Resolution in 2019. An update is overdue. An updated profile will aid the Town in prioritizing emissions reductions initiatives.)
- 4. Actively research & support applying for grant/other funding opportunities that reduce emissions, mitigate the impact of climate change, and build a more sustainable community**
(“Maine Won’t Wait”, the state’s enacted climate action plan, and recently passed federal infrastructure legislation have created many sustainability grant opportunities that target a plethora of sustainability investments. Brunswick can position itself to take advantage of these funds to leverage initiatives.)
- 5. Improve our public education and communications efforts**
(Some public education efforts have been on hold pending the anticipated agreement and change to Ecomaine for recycling and solid waste. We’re ready to “up our game” with efforts related to solid waste and other sustainability themes.)

Brunswick Recycling & Sustainability Committee

Energy & Sustainability Subcommittee

November 18, 2022

Potential Areas of Work for the E+S Subcommittee in 2023

Policy or Advisory Services

1. Develop a “carbon footprint” (an updated, comprehensive GHG emissions profile for the Town of Brunswick – all sectors and activities) – using carbon-emission equivalents as the basic unit of measure; press for indicated mitigation measures.
2. Major commitment to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance work, with a focus on promoting building energy efficiency upgrades and high standards in new construction; sustainability of open space and natural resources; electric vehicle charging infrastructure, including rental residential properties.
3. Push for establishment of a full-time Brunswick Sustainability Coordinator.
4. Help create the municipal ordinance and program infrastructure to implement the Maine C-PACE (commercial property assessed clean energy) loan program (in coordination with the Efficiency Maine Trust).
5. Facilitate the development of more robust electric vehicle charging infrastructure in public and non-residential spaces.
6. Push for fleet conversion to electric vehicles (EVs), and possibly biogas-powered vehicles, at the municipal and school department levels.

Direct Events or Services

1. Sponsor and facilitate another “Solarize Brunswick” initiative, adding a building energy conservation and conversion to renewable energy component.
2. Facilitate the development of one or more Brunswick community solar farms (CSFs) for those who cannot solarize their properties on site.
3. Sponsor and hold an “Electrify Brunswick” event, featuring conversion to electric vehicles and building efficiency and conversion to electric heating/cooling, with or without other area communities.
4. Create a bi-weekly or monthly energy and sustainability column, featuring publication in The Times Record, on the Town website, and via other social media.
5. Organize and support as major push to expand the efforts of Window Dressers (a Maine-based not-for-profit entity) to bring the energy efficiency benefits of interior window inserts to Maine residents, with an emphasis on low and moderate-income people.
6. Organize and staff a Brunswick “Aging at Home” effort, to help individual elderly Brunswick homeowners weatherize their properties and convert to renewable energy sources where practical.

R&S Goals for 2023

Having completed the transition to ecomaine, I think it's time to consolidate the committee's activities around what that means, and how the committee aims to achieve the goals it represents.

1. The longer the town puts off a "kickoff" event with ecomaine. The more poorly it will be received, and the less effective it will become.

a. ecomaine will provide a lot of support for that (displays, props, games, giveaways, etc.

b. The committee still needs to have its own table, containing display props, and adequately staffed to talk with people.

2. ecomaine will also do a "Bin Tag" program for the town, if they get coordination and support from the committee and the Town Management. That is the single most effective thing they do for getting citizens to buy into the proper ways to do recycling. That will be Brunswick's best hope for successfully keeping recycling contamination under control.

3. The energy subcommittee needs dramatic rethinking of its priorities away from a single focus on solar photovoltaics. There are a LOT of new things being done with wind and water energy, and locking them out for 20 years is a major error of putting short term cost reductions ahead of long term energy use improvements.

4. I have long maintained that Organics is a subset of recycling, not the other way around, and it is not a standalone item or discipline. Handling it that way has failed, and the R&S Committee needs to properly integrated it with recycling in general.

a. Garbage to Garden has been especially supportive of the committee's efforts. They have printed stuff for the tabling efforts, provided props, and even made the two large, laminated posters that were used at the Senior Expo.

b. The committee needs to develop a stronger relationship with them going forward.

c. The Committee needs to work on getting organics and non-organics recycling back in the schools. That's only been done by parents and teachers in the past, and needs more support of the kind the committee can give.

5. Any activities the Committee undertakes need to be properly marketed. That means much more than a few posts on Social Media. It means press releases, flyers, email blasts, and newspaper (possibly even television, especially the local channel)

advertising. That also means much greater cooperation by the Town, and some town funding as well.

a. Bina Skordas is supposedly now in charge of the Town's poorly designed, and even more poorly marketed website, but has ignored any requests I ever made for adding material to the site. Public works will not even say the word "website" any more. Clearly, something has to change there, if the committee is to make the public more aware of the R&S needs of the town, and the town itself is to be seen as supporting R&S efforts. Other than the greatly appreciated things Public Works has recently been willing to do by way of printing flyers and providing props for our tabling, there has been essentially no support from Town Management for R&S activities – most especially Public Education.

b. Public Works provided the committee with excellent props for our table at the Senior Expo, and been willing to get things printed for the committee as well. I think the committee can anticipate more support there, as the committee shakes down who can/will do what for public information at the town level.

c. The committee's representatives on the Town Council need to be pressed to step up and more forcefully move Town Management in better support of the committee's efforts. That means someone on the committee needs to be talking with the reps on a regular basis, and needs to work with them on specific needs and requests. That can mean, for example, moving the Town Manager on opening up the website for public education, seeing less hassle over new initiatives from the committee, achieving town cooperation for a bin tagging program as soon as practicable in the spring, pressing the School Board for restarting recycling programs of all kinds to our schools, or funding public advertising for the committee's initiatives. The committee cannot do its work when it is forever fighting with the town manager to get access to necessary resources.

d. There is clearly support within the Town Council for what the R&S Committee is trying to do, and there is strong support among our citizens. The unanimous vote for ecomaine in July proves that nicely. Keeping them keenly aware of the committee's needs, and supporting that with clear public support for the committee's initiatives will be key to getting the programs fully and properly implemented. One person alone can't do it. The Public Education subcommittee needs to be fully staffed, and its functions need top priority in the new year.