

1. Energy And Sustainability Agenda Feb 18 2015

Documents: [AGENDA 2 18 2016.PDF](#)

2. Minutes From January 21 2016

Documents: [DRAFT MINUTES FROM 1_21_1016.PDF](#)

3. Work Plan Framing Memo

Documents: [WORK PLAN PRIORITY FRAMING MEMO.PDF](#)

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Transportation, Sustainability and Energy

Councilor Jon Hinck (A/L), Chair

Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Vice Chair

Councilor Ed Suslovic (D3)

Agenda

February 18, 2016

5:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Review and approve minutes from January 21, 2016

2. Energy Benchmarking

Presentation by Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite and Charles Taylor
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership

3. Discussion of LED Street lighting

Review recent changes in Maine statute related to municipal street lighting. Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite will discuss innovations in street lighting technology and steps taken in other communities.

4. Staff presentation discussing the City's tree inventory and forestry program

5. Review Committee work plan

6. Public Comment on any item on the agenda

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January 21, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Members Attending: Councilor Hinck, Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Suslovic

Other Councilors Attending: Mayor Strimling

Staff Attending: Troy Moon, Adam Lee, Ethan Owens, Jeff Tarling, Jean Frasier

Councilor Hinck called the meeting to order. All present introduce themselves.

1. Pesticide Use on City Property

Troy Moon described current practices regarding the use of pesticides on City owned property including parks, open spaces, Riverside Golf Course, athletic facilities and rights of way. He emphasized that staff are judicious in use of pesticides and only use them when necessary. When situations require, staff use best management practices as described by the Maine Board of Pesticide Control. He then introduced Attorney Adam Lee to discuss the ordinance proposed by staff to govern use of pesticides on City owned property.

Mr. Lee explained that the draft draws on examples from other communities. He also noted that the Maine Legislature is currently reviewing a bill that would limit the ability of municipalities to regulate pesticides. Mr. Moon clarified that under the draft ordinance, no chemical pesticides would be allowed on parks, open spaces, cemeteries, or community gardens. Use in other spaces would need to adhere to the Maine Board of Pesticide Control's BMPs.

Ethan Owens explained that City athletic fields are heavily used and require great by staff to maintain in playable condition. He noted that they use limited chemical inputs but occasionally use a "weed and feed" type product. They do use organic fertilizers, which do spread weeds, which are not suitable for athletic facilities.

Councilor Thibodeau disclosed that his law firm has been retained to represent individuals on a side of the pesticide issue. He doesn't believe this inhibits his ability to participate in discussions and is working with Corporation Counsel to determine whether he should abstain from any votes on this issue.

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After further discussion, Councilor Hinck requests that staff provide the following information:

- the amount of chemical treatment used on the golf course on annual basis;
- this same information for athletic fields, streets and sidewalks, and playgrounds;
- A summary of the difference between the Ogunquit ordinance and the staff proposed ordinance
- that we identify City use of Round Up and neonicotinoid pesticides.

He would like staff to invite someone from Ogunquit to describe how their ordinance has affected maintenance of municipal property.

Councilor Suslovic requests an update on South Portland's work on pesticides and draft ordinance language if possible. He would also like someone from Water Resources to discuss how pesticide use (City and public) impacts the water quality of waterways.

Councilor Hinck indicates that the Committee should be prepared to discuss and vote on an ordinance regulating the use of pesticides on City property.

2. Work Plan

Councilor Hinck took the work plan out of order on the agenda and asked member of the public for suggestions regarding the committee work plan. Items suggested include:

Mary Anne Mitchell, Peaks Island: Anti-idling, enforce the existing ordinance and educate the public about the environmental impact of idling. More care about litter, especially plastic, that could blow into the ocean, perhaps more trash cans.

Allen and Allissa Armstrong, Sierra Club: More solar energy, look for ways to achieve goal of 25% of homes and business having solar power available. Encourage Portland to achieve about 20 MW 2021 by putting solar panels on appropriate spaces, facilitate community solar projects, and work on solarize Freeport type project.

Sam Saltonstall, Peaks Island: Bring energy efficiency and renewable energy to Portland. Benchmark City buildings to document energy performance and make upgrades as necessary. Increase maintenance City staff in order to better take care of buildings and make sure they are trained on new technology and equipment. Learn from other cities that have implemented such approaches. Emphasize energy efficiency. Many energy efficiency efforts are low cost. Look at financing methods that pay for efficiencies through energy savings.

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Timmi Sellers, Peaks Island: Improve communication between entities such as Casco Bay Lines and the City to ensure maintenance and cleaning of spaces on their bordering property.

Ian Jacob, State Street: Regarding long term goals regarding solid waste, be sure to include commercial and industrial. Focus on efficiency of whole City fleet as appropriate, set goals for specific types of vehicles. Supports LED street lighting, would like to make sure lighting upgrades enhance pedestrian level lighting. Regarding transit, be sure that bus stops are shoveled and accessible. Regarding pesticides, be sure to include Jetport usage. Look at eliminating parking minimums for developments.

John Thibodeau, Clinton Street: Supports a strong pesticide ordinance. Recommends demonstrating organic methods on an athletic field. Suggests doing a cost analysis for managing the golf course and athletic fields organically. Take a look at the Audubon certification. Explain the ordinance in lay terms so people can readily understand it.

Avery Kamila, Myrtle Street: Leads Portland Protectors, supports a strong pesticide ordinance. Does not support use of Round Up for maintenance. Would like to eliminate as many synthetic pesticides as possible.

Sarah Lakeman, NRCM: Offers NRCM's support to help achieve sustainability goals. Find ways to recognize and celebrate good work in Portland. Suggests adding long term goal for increasing locally grown food, support Portland Food Council. Look for community participation on sub-committees addressing goals. In solid waste, supports bigger recycling bins with covers and public space recycling bins.

Jeff Edelstein, Greater Portland Sustainability Council: Mostly concerned with energy. Supports development a regional energy plan. Encourages efforts to make sure buildings are efficient. Has interns available to help do research. Would like to see Maine be the first carbon neutral state.

Jim Cohen: would like to see the committee work closely with stakeholders to get good input. Think about integrated pest management as an approach for dealing with pesticides. Suggests looking at experiences from other communities who have adopted an all organic approach to landscape maintenance.

Councilor Hinck says it will be important to refine the list and prioritize items.

Councilor Suslovic says it will be useful to get feedback on the efficacy of policies that have already been enacted: plastic bag/foam packaging, anti-idling ordinance, no smoking in public parks. Suggests that we should take action to enforce or support ordinances or repeal them. Would like to

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see the Jetport master plan come to the Energy and Sustainability Committee before it goes to Council. Would like to see if there is an opportunity to build on gains from previous work done with Ameresco. Supports the suggestion of a task force to review pesticide ordinance so stakeholders can work out issues and come up with effective public policy, efforts to address packaging and the storm water fee are good recent examples of how this could work.

Councilor Thibodeau: Supports looking at ways to increase Metro ridership and improving maintenance of bus shelters. Regarding pesticides, would like to get input from landscapers. Regarding solar, would like to see the City work towards being carbon neutral, cites efforts by Steve Woods in Falmouth with Irridescent House that supplies energy to grid.

Councilor Hinck: Believes we should look at efforts to adapt to climate change in addition to mitigation. Mentions that we should look at the State law regarding disclosure of energy performance to tenants. A member of the public suggested looking at whether the parks are adequately funded.

Councilor Hinck and Councilor Suslovic support work to modernize the solid waste collection system.

Councilor Hinck feels solar/renewable energy goals have broad community support and challenges interested parties to support the committee's work on this by identifying ways to achieve them.

3. Update on Solar Power initiative

Mr. Moon informed the committee that the City of Portland and the City of South Portland have requested a joint proposal for solar development on their municipal landfills. Staff is awaiting this document. He added that community members and staff visited the Peaks Island landfill to explore its suitability for a community solar project. Jean Frasier described an ongoing effort in the Planning Department to determine how existing zoning language addresses renewable energy production. Staff will be making recommendations for amendments in the code to support the kinds of efforts discussed in the meeting today.

4. Conclusion

Mr. Moon reviewed elements on the draft work plan and updated the committee members on the City's efforts to date. Following the review Councilor Hinck requests that staff prepare a memo for the committee that categorizes potential goals as follows:

- Items staff can address without Council action

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- Items staff can take care of but that would require Council action or financial appropriation
- Items that are possibly interesting ideas but would require additional policy input from the Council

Councilor Thibodeau suggests adding discussion of long term vs. short term opportunities to the memo.

Councilor Suslovic would like to see the committee review progress on ongoing City initiatives that are relevant to the committee. He cites compliance with plans regarding storm water and efforts to address sea level rise. Councilor Hinck agrees with this suggestion.

Chairman Hinck confirms that the next meeting of the Committee will be February 18 at 5:30.

Councilor Suslovic moved adjournment, seconded by Councilor Thibodeau. All in favor.

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To: Councilor Hinck and members of the Energy and Sustainability Committee
From: Troy Moon, Environmental Programs Manager
Date: 2/13/2016
Re: Priority Setting for the Upcoming Year

During the Energy and Sustainability Committee meeting on January 21, committee members requested that staff organize the priorities discussed during the meeting in order to help them define an effective work plan for the upcoming year. In order to frame the discussion, we have organized the topics as action items and identified necessary steps staff and the council would need to take to implement them. We hope this will help the Committee determine which areas to focus its attention on this year.

Sustainability and Climate Action Goals

Action item: Establish meaningful carbon reduction goals for City operations and for the community as a whole.

Staff: Support Council decision making by providing examples of carbon reduction goals established in other communities. (Net Zero Cambridge, for example)

Council: Review and adopt broad carbon reduction goals for the City of Portland.

Action Item: Prepare the City for the effects of climate change including sea level rise.

Staff: Support Council decision making by providing examples of innovative climate adaptation plan from other communities. Inventory actions taken the City and community stakeholders to date.

Council: Review and adopt climate adaptation strategies for the City of Portland.

Energy Efficiency/Benchmarking:

Action Item: Increase energy efficiency of City buildings and facilities:

Staff: Benchmark the energy performance of City buildings using Portfolio Manager to create an Energy Star Score for each. Prioritize efficiency improvements in buildings with low scores compared to comparable buildings.

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Conduct energy audits to identify efficiency improvements and opportunities for financial savings. Recommend funding mechanisms to implement such projects. Options include operating budgets, future CIP budgets, ESCO financing, or some combination of sources.

Council: Review and approve projects and associated funding mechanism which may include CIP expenditure and/or ESCO financing.

Action Item: Increase energy efficiency in commercial buildings and multi-family buildings

Staff: Explore opportunities to use existing economic development programs to support energy efficiency.

Work with multi-family building owners and property managers to find ways to make energy and utility costs more transparent to tenants.

Research the effectiveness of energy disclosure ordinances in other cities and make recommendations for Portland.

Council: Along with Portland Development Corporation, review and approve recommendations to use economic development funds to support efforts by businesses to improve energy efficiency

Review ordinance language regarding energy benchmarking and disclosure in commercial and multifamily buildings.

Action Item: Convert street lights to LED technology

Staff: Investigate converting City street lights to LED technology. Determine a possible scope of work, and the value of potential savings. If warranted, make recommendations for funding a capital project. Options may include inclusion in the CIP budget or some alternative such contracting with an energy services company

Council: Review and approve funding mechanism for a potential capital project.

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Solar Power Development

Action Item: Take meaningful steps to achieve Mayor Strimling's goal that 25% of Portland businesses and homes use solar power within 10 years.

Staff: Pursue opportunities to site solar arrays on City property including roof tops and suitable open spaces.

Explore options to support community solar projects that will allow residents and businesses unable to place solar panels on their property to benefit from solar power.

Review zoning regulations and other policies that limit or prohibit deployment of solar panels. Offer recommendations for changes to the Council.

Review existing business assistance programs for opportunities to help with installation of solar panels.

Council: Pass a resolution outlining specific goals for renewable energy use by the City and establish targets for solar power use by homeowners and businesses.

Review and adopt code and policy amendments to facilitate installation of solar panels in the City.

Solid Waste and Recycling

Action Item: Modernize and improve the existing solid waste program.

Staff: Explore cart based collection systems utilizing automated equipment.

Continue to investigate options for comprehensive, city-wide collection and composting of organics.

Council: Review and approve program changes and associated funding necessary for implementation.

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Pesticide Use

Ensure safe and effective management of turf and landscapes in the City of Portland

Staff: Limit use of pesticides and continue to employ BMPs outlined by the Maine Board of Pesticide Control when these products are used.

Engage with stakeholders from both sides of the issue.

Provide Council with information about operational impacts and costs associated with organic versus integrated pest management approaches to landscape and turf management.

Educate staff and residents about low impact practices of landscape and turf management.

Council: Receive and weigh public input on pesticide use. Review and adopt ordinance language governing the use and/or sale of chemical pesticides in Portland.

Community Education and Engagement

Action Item: Initiate a broad community outreach program to educate residents about City environmental programs and mobilize sustainable behavior

Staff: Explore creative ways to educate community members about sustainable behavior including energy conservation, waste reduction and recycling, and others. (Example: make better use of the inserts in City trash bags.)

Support efforts by neighborhoods to engage in sustainable initiatives such as neighborhood clean ups, tree planting, and leaf raking.

Utilize social media to engage the public with City programs.

Support efforts by community partners who offer environmental education and programs including The Resilience Hub, Greater Portland Sustainability Council, Cultivating Community, Portland Trails, and others.

Council: Engage with residents regarding sustainability goals. Provide staff with input and feedback regarding the efficacy of programs and outreach efforts.