

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Chair
Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)
Councilor Jill Duson (A/L)

Minutes April 25, 2017

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Duson
Other Councilors: Mayor Ethan Strimling
Staff Present: Troy Moon, Bruce Hyman, Chris Branch, Melissa Graffam, Victoria Morales, Mike Murray

There was a spelling error with the word “dividend” Staff will make that correction to the March 21st meeting minutes. Councilor Ray makes a motion to approve the minutes from March 21, 2017. Seconded by Councilor Duson. All in favor. 3-0.

Communication Regarding Plan for Addressing Unaccepted Streets

Victoria Morales, from Corporation Counsel, updated the Committee to let them know that employees from Planning, Public Works, Parks and Corporation Counsel have been meeting to review the status of certain paper streets in the City. There are a total of 400 unaccepted streets on the mainland and 150 on the islands. By state law, the City must determine whether to accept or vacate the streets by September. Alternately, the City can decide to defer action for up to 20 years. The streets are candidates to be vacated only about City property and would not impact any private property owners.

The unaccepted streets on the islands will be treated separately, but not sure if they are to remain gravel.

Councilor Duson asked if there have been notices gone out to people whom are on the list. Victoria replied that the property that they are currently looking at has been city property. A public notice will go out when there is a meeting scheduled.

Victoria indicated that the City Manager would be presenting a recommendation on how to proceed at the next committee meeting.

Discuss Resolution Urging Adoption of a National Carbon Fee and Dividend Program (Public Comment was taken)

Peter Monroe presented a draft resolution urging the City Council to adopt a national carbon fee and dividend program that the Portland Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) drafted. This measure would place a price on carbon, with fees collected minus administration costs returned to American households as a monthly energy dividend. Representative Chellie Pingree supports

this policy but wants to receive more support from her district, thus the urging for the resolution. A proposal will be introduced into Congress this year.

Peter mentioned that with the revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend, residents would get an estimated \$300 monthly dividend check.

Committee took public comment.

Bill Webber, North Deering – In a desperate mode right now. Regulations are being rolled back with the Trump administration. We need to regulate our greenhouse gases. Likes the CCL plan and supports these measures. The CCL was created by Democrats and Republicans.

Alan Armstrong, Spruce Street – Cost and benefits are accurate and evident. Currently, this isn't the case because fossil fuels have been able to be dumped, should be able to see carbons real price. Speaks on behalf of the CCL

Greta, West End – Is a photo journalist. Has seen that climate change is impacting people in West Africa. Watched five (5) homes fall into the sea. Farmers who have had farms for 100's of years are seeking extra work and are becoming taxi drivers. While in Panama, the islands are becoming flooded due to rising seas. Residents are now having to live in the forest, where there is more disease.

Sarah Brake, Cumberland Avenue – Urges the committee to support this resolution.

John Howard, Gray, Maine – Member of the CCL. Hopes the committee will vote for this resolution.

Councilor Duson is enthusiastic about this resolution and would like to move this to the whole council. Councilor Ray also stated that she is enthusiastic and by adopting the resolution it shows that the City of Portland is in support.

Council Duson made a motion to bring this resolution to the City Council. Seconded by Councilor Thibodeau. All in favor. 3-0.

Discuss Resolution for 100% Clean Energy Goal (Public Comment was taken)

Committee took public comment.

Bill Webber, North Deering – Worked with Troy on the Ameresco project. It's great to have a goal, but need to have a plan (road map).

Hannah Holt, Portland – A King Middle School student. Participated in the climate march with her school. Made a wind turbine and placed second in the State and is currently fundraising to go to the Nationals.

Glen Brand, Sierra Club – Supports the resolution, thinks its great. Portland would be joining a growing number of communities. The city will also be having the largest municipal solar power in the state at the Ocean Avenue Park.

Robert Stoddard, Ocean Wave Tech Company – Strongly supports the resolution. Portland is leading by example. Urges the committee to work with the City Manager and department heads and all that would be needed to work to achieve this goal.

Joey Brunelle, Kellogg Street – Likes the resolutions, but feels that 2040 is not fast enough. Use citizens to help, be creative.

Alan Armstrong, Spruce Street – Supports this resolution. We can't solve this ourselves but we can do our part.

Mako Bates, Irving Street – Lower carbon emissions by 2020. In a report done in 2005 about the city reducing its emissions, how are we doing with this?

Gus Goodwin, King Middle School Teacher – Wanted to state the importance of this resolution and applaud what you are doing.

Troy Moon responded to the question about the report done in 2005. We didn't have anything to compare our numbers (needed 1990 data).

Councilor Thibodeau is this resolution is to guide the work from the 2008 plan.

There were amendments made to the “Now, Therefore, be it resolved,” that staff will change to _____ **Troy can you put that in here for me please. I did not get all the changes.**

Council Ray made a motion to bring this resolution to the City Council. Seconded by Councilor Dusen. All in favor. 3-0.

Continue Discussion of Climate Action Plan (Public Comment was taken)

The discussion started with the Mayor Ethan Strimling addressing the committee in support of bold action.

Public comment and suggestions:

Chloe Maxmin, 350 Maine – Implement what Portland, Oregon has for zoning regulations. Stop building fossil fuel infrastructure.

Susan Pasture, Stevens Avenue – Member of 350 Maine. Need to be proactive.

Maggie Wolf, Munjoy Hill – Would like to have the Comprehensive Plan to mention the Climate Action Plan. Make sure that the whole city is committed to this.

Mako Bates, Irving Street – Keep the plan as simple as it can be. Move to electrical as possible. Doesn't think a consultant would be needed to work on this. Somethings are easy to change, just financial challenges.

Allan Armstrong- Don't need to re-create the wheel. Volunteers could help research.

Joey Brunelle - His list of ideas is the following. (1) Electric vehicle charging stations at all city facilities, open to the public. (2) Rooftop solar at all city buildings, even at City Hall. (3)

Rooftop solar canopies at city parking garages, or even small scale wind installations. (4) A ban on new fossil fuel infrastructure at the port. (5) A competition for small scale clean energy projects, with funding for implementation for the winners (with perhaps public + private funds raised). (6) Divestment from banks that finance fossil fuel pipelines and infrastructure. (7) An analysis of the exact carbon budgets and inventories of each city department, down to the vehicle trips, equipment purchased from overseas, and even foods bought. (8) An effort in our schools to purchase as much local and sustainably-grown food as possible. (9) Greater support of public transit and alternative modes of transportation - and things like bike share - to reduce our dependence on car ownership. (10) A real, sustained, professionally-done campaign for public awareness of what we can do as citizens to reduce our carbon footprints - things like eating less meat, traveling less by air, buying less stuff.

Bill Webber – Cautionary note; oil to natural gas. A progression over time. Natural gas has helped bring down greenhouse gas.

Troy Moon has gotten in touch with Scientist for help with this work. He will be hearing back from them soon.

Councilor Ray mentioned creating an online database to get public input. Troy will talk to the IT department about this. Could also add sustainable activities and the Sustainability Report to the Committee's website.

Councilor Thibodeau mentioned getting communication to the Comprehensive Plan Committee of the work/ideas from the Climate Action Plan for them to incorporate.

Sustainability Updates

Bayside Adapts – There are five (5) submissions. The presentation will be held on May 3, 2017.

Casco Bay Heat Pump Challenge – Will be held on June 17, 2017; Public to learn about heat pumps.

Follow-up on Bike Share Discussion from March 21, 2017 – Staff updated the Committee that although the city is supportive of the Bike Share Program; they will not be recommending funding. Joey Brunelle, from Bike Share, updated the committee that they have hired someone who will be helping them with fundraising. Looking to start the pilot program next year.

Motion was made by Councilor Ray to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm. Motion was seconded by Councilor Duson. All in favor. 3-0.