

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Andrew Zarro (D4), Chair
Councilor Victoria Pelletier (D2)
Councilor Roberto Rodríguez (At-Large)

Minutes June 14, 2023

Members Present: Councilor Zarro, Councilor Rodríguez, Councilor Pelletier

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Erin Ferrell, John Peverada

Meeting was called to order.

May 24 Minutes

Councilor Zarro makes a motion to approve the May 24, 2023 meeting minutes. Councilor Rodriguez moves the motion. May 24 minutes passed unanimously, 3-0.

Sustainability Update

Presented by Troy Moon

Portland launched a new partnership with [EnergySage](#), a web-based platform that helps homeowners, businesses, and nonprofits research and shop for rooftop solar, community solar subscriptions, and other clean energy solutions. Staff met with system planners from CMP to review preliminary data regarding the feasibility of deploying shore power on the Portland waterfront. This was a high level overview of the work they have completed on their study and will reconvene later this summer as they complete more work on the project.

Using translation services from Language Partners we were able to translate the food scrap drop-site accepted materials sign into 2 additional languages, Somali and Vietnamese, and have posted these resources on our website. We are preparing to launch an outreach campaign to raise awareness around the social and environmental benefits of composting and to encourage Portland residents to take advantage of our free food scrap drop-off program.

Kevin Roche, CEO of ecomaine, was invited to join our meeting in July to provide an overview of the organization and plans to improve recycling and waste reduction efforts in our region.

Staff hosted a Lunch & Learn webinar in our Summer Landcare Webinar Series with experts at the Maine Audubon on June 6. Check out the recording of “Creating Bird-Friendly Habitat in Your Backyard” [here](#).

Portland will be receiving a fully electric waste hauler this fall. (It is currently being built by the manufacturer.) It is a Mack LRE that the Solid Waste team will use for regular trash collection service. The Sustainability Office is working with DPW to build charging infrastructure for it and for electric equipment that will join the fleet in the future. This will be the first heavy duty electric truck deployed in Maine.

Usage of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure we have deployed continues to grow. Usage in the first quarter of this year dramatically outpaced usage during the first quarter of last year, with usage levels approaching last summer's peak months. We are also seeing usage of the EVgo infrastructure, particularly the fast charger at Spring/High.

The Planning Department reports that the bikeshare program is off to a successful start this year. Ridership numbers exceed what we saw last fall. Bruce Hyman will join the Committee's meeting in July to provide a more formal update.

Councilor Comment on Sustainability Update

Councilor Pelletier asks about the outreach plan for the community compost drop-off program. *The office is creating an outreach plan that includes plans to translate flyers and posters.*

Fore Street Time Limited Parking

Presented by John Peverada

Earlier this year the City Manager's Office received a petition to amend the parking schedule to provide for 2 hour parking between 9 AM - 6 PM on both sides of Fore Street between St. Lawrence Street and Atlantic Street.

As required by City policy, more than 60% of the residents on the affected block signed the petition indicating support for changing the parking schedule from unlimited parking to time limited parking. Jeremiah Bartlett, Transportation Systems Engineer for the Department of Public Works, has reviewed this request and finds that it meets the City's criteria and that he supports the requested amendment.

If the Committee wishes to recommend this amendment to the full City Council, staff recommends that it take effect following Labor Day, 2023 in order to provide notice to Island residents and others who currently utilize the parking spaces on this block.

Public Comment on Fore Street Time Limited Parking

Barbara Vestal requests an explanation of parking limits in their area and spoke in support of the limited parking.

Councilor Comment on Fore Street Time Limited Parking

Councilor Zarro asks if signage is posted after Labor Day, this limited parking would not go into effect until after Labor Day. *This would not go into effect until after Labor Day and the Parking Division notes that cars are not allowed to leave their car in a spot for more than 10 days.*

Councilor Rodriguez asks if the Committee votes to move this item to the full Council, when would this go before the full Council? *It would likely be later in July.*

Motion to recommend to full Council

Councilor Zarro motions to recommend the Time Limited Parking request to the full Council. Councilor Rodriguez seconds the motion. Passed 3-0.

Mid-Year Progress Report

Presented by Troy Moon

Status of the Stroudwater Dam project is in progress. The office is working with Corporation Counsel to locate the heirs of the dam. Results of that conversation will come back to the Committee.

The Burlington Carbon Impact Fee was presented to the Committee and the office is working with Corporation Counsel to identify how/if that fee could work in Maine.

The BirdSafe Glass ordinance is very close to completion and will be ready for the July S&T Committee Meeting.

C-PACE Ordinance - the office is convening staff to work on language and will be brought back to the Committee for the September Committee meeting.

Sustainability Fund - this is in progress and will return to Committee in the Fall

Energy Benchmarking Ordinance Proposed Amendments will be presented in September along with a report of 2022 Benchmarking reports.

Councilor Comment on Mid-Year Progress Report

Councilor Pelletier notes the concerns of residents about the Sprague coal pile in the West End.

The City does not currently regulate the coal pile - it is regulated by the Maine DEP. Councilor Zarro is meeting with the Corporation Counsel to identify how the Council can advocate for the health and safety for residents.

Councilor Zarro asks about adding a Streetlight Report. *This has been added to the July meeting agenda with the Public Works Director presenting.* Councilor asks about Sunday on the Boulevard being prioritized and brought to Committee. *This is in the works and it will likely be a "Festival Declaration" and will not be visited by this Committee.*

Motion to Adjournment

Moved by Councilor Rodríguez, all adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned